FORD THEATRE MUSEUM
OLDROYD

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FORD'S THEATRE

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The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

Oldroyd Collection in the Ford's Theatre Museum

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

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THE LINCOLN MUSEUM

Why It Should Have Needed Financial Aid from Congress.

Work Done by the Memorial Association of the District of Columbia.

[Special Washington Letter.]

The people of the republic live in the present and care very little for the incidental details of American history, or for the current events which will be of important historical value to future generations. We do not preserve our landmarks, as the peoples of the old world are accustomed to do.

For example, Old Ford's theater, in the judgment of many, should have been preserved just as it was on the occasion of the assassination of President Lincoln. It should never have been used as a government office. Then, just opposite the old theater, is the little brick house in which President Lincoln died. Congress ought long years ago to have purchased and maintained that property. It was suggested again and again in public prints, and occasionally in the house of representatives, but nothing came of it.

The house is now leased by the Memorial Association of the District of Columbia. This Memorial association is composed of some of the leading citizens of the country, presided over by Chief Justice Fuller, of the United States supreme court, and is actuated by purely public spirited motives. Although its members have met with comparatively little encouragement from congress so far, they have, at their own expense, leased this property for one year, in the hope that by the expiration of that time the national legislature will see the wisdom and appropriateness of purchasing the property outright for a national museum of relics of the martyr president.

Upon all great occasions which bring throngs of people to the national capital the thousands or tens of thousands of visitors seek the spot where Lincoln died. The house has been maintained as a private residence so that the interior could not be seen without annoyance to the family residing there. Finally the owner was called upon so many times by sightseers that he concluded to charge an admission fee to those who wanted to see the bedroom which became so suddenly and so sadly historic. The Memorial association wants the house to be open to the public free.

The large collection of Lincoln relics which are now on exhibition in this building belongs to Capt. O. H. Olroyd, who commenced collecting these articles as far back as 1860. They were preserved until recently in the house at Springfield, Ill., where Lincoln resided when he was elected president. The house was given to the state by Robert T. Lincoln, and until recently Capt. Olroyd was custodian.

which the association has hope[illegible] of securing, together with ma[illegible] other relics owned in this c[illegible] and throughout the co[illegible]ry.

In one room the association has on exhibition a thousand Lincoln biographies, and nearly six hundred memorial sermons. The principal newspapers are on file, giving accounts of the tragedy. And in the same room there are papers containing the political caricatures of the war times; many of them picturing the president in humorous or grotesque attitudes. In this literary collection there are funeral odes innumerable.

Senator Cullom and Vice President Stevenson, both from Illinois, are anxious to secure an appropriation for the purchase of the property and the maintenance of a Lincoln museum. Senator Palmer, of Illinois, carried through the war a major general's commission which was given him by President Lincoln. He also took great interest in this matter from the inception of the idea. The Illinois members of the house of representatives are in earnest about it, and their efforts are seconded by encouragement from the representatives from other states. Many southern men come forward and say that Lincoln belongs to the entire country, and his memory is a common heritage.

Bishop Keane, of the National Catholic university, says: "The longer I live, and the more I love America, the more I thank God for the example of Lincoln. He was a man whom God made for humanity."

That voices the sentiment everywhere freely expressed in this community; and it will awaken responsive

VOLK'S LIFE MASK OF LINCOLN.

echoes from ocean to ocean. President Cleveland approves the project. Indeed there seems to be no active opposition from any source. Chief Justice Fuller, of the supreme court, has always been an ardent admirer of Lincoln, and he is very much in earnest about the purchase of the property on Tenth street. Talking with a friend on the subject recently, in a street car, Justice Fuller said: "I have no doubt that the appropriation will be made in the sundry civil bill. That is the intention of the committee on appropriations; and I am confident that congress will ratify their report. It is too bad that something was not done long ago to preserve both the house and the old theater."

1893-1897?

The Memorial association regards the Olroyd collection of about three thousand pieces as a good nucleus of a museum of the life of Lincoln. They expect to receive valuable relics from time to time from every part of the union. In the Olroyd collection there are pictures of all grades, from crude newspaper cuts and campaign badges to a large oil portrait painted by Holles in 1858, and the Lincoln life mask and bust by Volk, probably the best in existence. There are many quaint pieces of furniture hallowed by association with Lincoln. Chief among these are an old mahogany hair-cloth sofa and

THE HOUSE WHERE LINCOLN DIED.

rocking-chair, with which he first began housekeeping in Springfield. Then there is the family cradle made of solid cherry and almost big enough for a bed, and the cook-stove, several dining-room chairs, and a stone from the crypt in which he was buried. Hanging over the door between the front parlors is a rough and worn old rail, which is certified to be one of the original 300,000 made by the muscular president in 1830, by which he won his sobriquet of "the rail-splitter," a sobriquet which, as a campaign cry, added much to his popularity.

From the cellar of the Smithsonian institution the Memorial association secured the chair in which Lincoln sat when Booth fired the fatal shot. It is a mahogany rocker, upholstered in red damask, which even in this day shows in dark stains where the blood of the murdered president flowed. Accompanying this is the hat which Lincoln wore on the fatal night, a tall, old-fashioned beaver with a black band, such as he is always pictured as wearing. The record states that these relics were deposited with the institution the day after the assassination, probably by the military or some of the theater attaches. They have been placed on the spot where stood the bed in which the president died, and

The Lincoln museum is only one block from Pennsylvania avenue, that thronged and busy thoroughfare of the national capital. It is midway between the treasury and interior departments. The street is a quiet one, for there is no business transacted there, and the residences are few. Above the front door there is a marble slab with an inscription concerning Lincoln's death. The building is accessible from any part of the city, because all of the street-car lines cross Tenth street, to the north or south of the locality. The semi-spiral iron staircase which leads from the pavement to the front door bears to the portals daily some American pilgrims to this Mecca of the republic. Standing in that door they may look across the narrow street upon the old theater, and over the course traversed by those who bore the body of the stricken chief magistrate. Through the narrow hallway to the historic back room the visitors first are shown. After viewing, with uncovered head, the hallowed spot, the visitors go from room to room, looking at the collected relics, and some of them write notes in their diaries to remind them of things they have seen there.

The work of the Memorial association has but just begun. It will gradually gather into the fold of its protection many of the neglected historic houses of Washington. The houses where our famous men resided when they were on the road to fame must be cared for. The temporary homes of Blaine, Thurman, Garfield, Hayes, Grant, Randall, Carlisle, and all of the great men of the past, will be either leased or bought, from time to time, so that the generations to follow us here may feel that their country is not only making history, but preserving ocular evidences of facts concerning our great men and great events.

SMITH D. FRY.

Stood the Test.

Allcock's Porus Plasters are unapproachable in curative properties, rapidity and safety of action, and are the only reliable plasters ever produced. They have successfully stood the test of over thirty years' use by the public; their virtues have never been equalled by imitators who have sought to trade upon the reputation of Allcock's by making plasters with holes in them, and claiming them to be "just as good as Allcock's," and they stand today endorsed by not only the highest medical authorities, but by millions of grateful patients who have proved their efficacy as a household remedy.

Beware of imitations Ask for Allcock's, and do not be persuaded to accept a substitute.

Brandreth's Pills will purify the blood.

Only one more week of portrait types No. 1 and then it will cost you 15c. You will want it, so you had better commence now.

OLDROYD MISC CHAIRS

FEB. 1902?

MANY RELICS OF LINCOLN.

THE COLLECTION AT WASHINGTON HAS GROWN TO WORTHY SIZE.

It Is Maintained and Shown in the House in Which the President Died and Which Is Now the Property of the Government.

The ninety-third anniversary of the birth of Lincoln, celebrated on the twelfth of this month, makes especially interesting the museum at the National Capital that is dedicated to his memory. The home of this collection of over 3,000 articles identified with President Lincoln is established in the house in which he died. This house stands on Tenth street, a little below F, and directly opposite the old Ford's theater, where the assassination took place. It is a plain three-story house, with basement, and appears exactly as it did on the night of the event that has made it historic. A small tablet set high in the wall and a large sign board fastened to the railing of the winding stone outer stairway tell the passersby of the purpose to which the building is dedicated. The house belongs to the government, having been purchased to insure its unchanged preservation.

This collection, however, is the treasured possession of one patriotic man, and its growth has been unique. The owner is Osborn H. Oldroyd, whose admiration for Lincoln inspired him to commence the collection of everything connected with his idol that, as a mere lad, he could procure, and was begun in 1860, with the preservation of every available cartoon and caricature that appeared in the journals of the time of Lincoln's campaign for the Presidency.

After Lincoln became President the zealous collection of souvenirs went steadily on from year to year, until its owner, in 1883, found himself able to lease the Springfield home of Lincoln, restore it from a somewhat dilapidated condition to repair and order, and place his treasures there. For five years he lived there, assiduously augmenting the collection by every means in his power. At the end of that time, Robert T. Lincoln, the owner of the property, turned the house over to the state of Illinois, and the state legislature assumed charge of it, appointing for its management a board of trustees. This board elected the enthusiastic collector custodian of the museum, which was then enlarged by purchases as well as gifts of relics. A subsequent change of governors resulted in the removal of Mr. Oldroyd, who promptly packed up his collection and removed it to storage.

Soon after this the Memorial association of Washington invited him to take the collection there and place it in the house in which Lincoln had died. This he did, and it has grown steadily in extent and value with the passing years. The house was purchased by the government for $30,000, in 1897. It is now hoped that Congress will provide a suitable salary for this loyal son of the Union, which will allow him to give his whole time and attention to the care of the collection. In this case he will bequeath the museum to the government on his death.

As one enters the doorway of the Lincoln museum he is ushered into a long hallway, with every inch of its space covered with pictures of Lincoln before and after election, alone, and in the midst of his family. These number nearly 300. Some are the only pictures of their like now existing, others are familiar as well known reproductions. The majority are good, others ordinary, and some so crude as to be ludicrous. One of the most interesting of these pictures is an excellent pencil sketch of Lincoln as a young man. Its origin is unknown, yet by friends and contemporaries of the original it is said to be a fine likeness.

Leaving the hall one enters the first room on the left, the front room of the house. Here on the walls and in cases are more pictures, mainly photographs, and extend to relatives and people and places closely connected with the life and career of Lin-

coln. These are carefully grouped in relation to their especial connection with their subject and with each other. Beside pictures of relatives, which include one of his stepmother, and his mother's brother, Dennis Hanks, are the old homes and scenes amid which they belong. Portraits of Lincoln's law partners are here and later pictures of himself and his cabinet. Photographs of his wife are arrayed by themselves, and with them a lock of that lady's hair. Here, too, hangs an oil painting made as early as 1842, and another dated 1858, and there are two fine statuettes of Lincoln and Douglass, made by Leonard Volk of Chicago. On a handsome bronze easel stands an artistically executed tribute of sympathy and condolence, sent by the Argentine Republic, on the death of Lincoln.

In this room, in a case above the mantel, is the American flag that draped the President's box on the night of his assassination. It shows plainly the rent made by the assassin's spur, which caused his fall and the breaking of his leg as he leaped from box to stage. The spur, too, finds space here.

A quaint campaign flag that was carried in political procession at Springfield in 1860 contains a crude portrait of Lincoln within a circle of stars. In a case is the Lincoln family Bible, from which his mother read to Abraham as a boy, and bearing his name scratched upon it in a childish hand. Beside it are some of the books from Lincoln's own first library. These include a volume of the "Laws of the State of Illinois," dated 1841; "Principles of the Laws of Jurisprudence," 1856 (on the fly-leaf of this volume is inscribed in Lincoln's handwriting, "Presented by Abraham Lincoln to his law partner, William H. Herndon"); "Life of Blackhawk" and a volume of "Revised Statutes of Illinois," for 1845. A first edition of "Parson" Weem's wonderful "Life of Washington," with a most interesting history attached, is on his book shelf. The book—and who can tell what influence it had on Lincoln's future career?—was lent him by a neighbor, and he stuck it for safe keeping between the logs of his father's cabin. Here, one night the rain penetrated and injured it. The young man took it to his neighbor the next morning and explained its plight, and the latter allowed him to redeem the damage by working for him for two days.

In a glass-covered box on this shelf is a copy of the "Acts and resolutions passed by the first session of the Thirtieth Congress of the United States," dated 1848, containing Abraham Lincoln's name on the outside, and his autograph is repeated no less than six times within. Hence the reason of its special care. Here, too, are valuable autograph letters dating from the time of Lincoln's service as captain in the Black Hawk war to near the time of his death, the most interesting in the eyes of its possessor being that ordering the removal of General McClellan from the head of the Union army.

Fixed across the top of the doorway between this room and that immediately beyond it is a black locust rail split by Lincoln in 1840 for the fence that surrounded his father's house. It was sent to Springfield and carried in campaign processions and later was borne, draped in black, in Lincoln's funeral cortege. Its authenticity has been unquestionably proven and it bears full indorsement of its genuineness. Beside it is a "wide-awake" torch, decorated with a small flag, that was also carried in campaign processions by a Springfield neighbor in 1860.

THE HOUSE WHERE LINCOLN DIED.
(Now the home of the Lincoln Museum.)

LINCOLN'S DESK AND CHAIR, FROM HIS SPRINGFIELD HOME.

On one side the walls of the second room are covered with the campaign cartoons and caricatures that formed the nucleus of this collection. The opposite wall of this room is covered with photographs and prints connected with the assassination, and by them are some gruesome relics connected with the passage from this world of the conspirators. Cases containing life and death masks of Lincoln are here, with casts of his hand, all by Volk, and there are numerous medallions with portraits in relief, some well known, some rare, and others the only specimens of their kind in existence. There is also a case of fractional currency, and stamps containing portraits of President Lincoln. A unique piece of the furniture of this apartment is a stand made from one of the beams of the house in which Lincoln boarded in 1834. Lines were written for it by John G. Whittier, and these are engraved upon a gray marble slab that forms the top of the stand. They are:

Let mind be free! The mighty word
He spake was not his own.
The spirit of the Highest stirred
His mortal lips alone!

From this room one re-enters the hall to reach the historic chamber in which the President breathed his last. It is a long, narrow apartment, lighted by three windows opening upon the yard of the house. This chamber has been left practically unchanged; even the striped, flowered paper upon the wall, which is seen in all pictures of the deathbed, has been carefully preserved as it then was. Here the custodian has arranged all his mementoes connected with that event. Numerous prints picturing it hang on the wall, and in cases are various articles used during the time the President lay there—the knife, the bedspread, the plaster for his wound, the candle that was held by one of the cabinet members for the doctor's examination, and other witnesses of the sad scene. Here also are trophies connected with the death and the funeral—the official telegram announcing his death, issued from the War department eight minutes after it occurred; flowers from the bier; the eagle that surmounted the catafalque; the marble slab that covered the crypt temporarily containing the remains at Springfield. These are supplemented by some seventy pieces of music, songs, dirges and funeral marches based upon the death of Lincoln, sermons upon the subject and other data referring to it.

Immediately behind this room is what was the servant's room of the old house. Mr. Oldroyd has made this the library of his museum and covered its wall space with shelves containing all obtainable biographies of Lincoln, numbering over a thousand volumes, as well as hundreds of newspapers and magazines, and nearly 4,000 newspaper clippings relating to Lincoln. Here hangs a copy of the Gettysburg address and a photograph of the emancipation proclamation.

A large room to the rear of this is an addition to the house that was made by the government to continue the larger articles in the collection. Here stands the quaint little desk that was used by Lincoln in his home until he was elected President, and it is more than probable that the inaugural address was penned upon the modest space of its surface, and it is as probable that he was seated while he wrote these vigorous words upon the plain wooden office chair which stands now, as it stood in the Springfield home, beside the desk. Near these is the weather-stained old settee that was for long familiar to neighbors of the Springfield home, for thereon the great man was wont to rest of a summer evening, greeting from it his friends among the passersby. Two large hair-cloth sofas of familiar pattern are from the Springfield home, as is a large walnut and hair-cloth rocking chair, which was one of Mr. Lincoln's favorite seats. Several plain wooden chairs of homely type, with flower-painted backs, used in the Springfield dining room, are here, as is a fanciful "whatnot," made from a family bedstead of walnut, which Mr. Lincoln presented to a friend. A roomy cradle of artistic pattern that was used for the younger Lincoln children touches a tender spot in the beholder's heart, and a little stand with the familiar twisted legs was also of the Springfield furniture. A large kitchen stove of good modern dimensions is doubtless that on which Mrs. Lincoln cooked that famous creamed chicken, which the President later craved from her hands when particularly weary of the official ceremony of the White house.

Two of the finest of the Lincoln busts, by Volk and Jones, respectively, are in this room, and the best portraits of the President, both original photographs and engravings. Many of the former, which are gathered together in a large glass case, are by Brady, the noted "court photographer" of his day in Washington.

Here also is another case of valuable medals, coins, dies, engraved notes, etc., bearing portraits of President Lincoln. These number 171 and represent great intrinsic, as well as sentimental, value.

hd up

[1904?]

A LINCOLN MEMORIAL

Oldroyd Collection of Relics Will Be Seen at St. Louis.

A Building Built by Bees Also to Be One of the Many Remarkable Features.

The Oldroyd collection of relics of Abraham Lincoln, which is to be bought by the United States government, and which is eventually to form the nucleus of a great Lincoln memorial and museum to be established in Washington, may be exhibited at the world's fair.

When Gov. Sayers of Texas was a member of congress he pushed a bill through that body appropriating $25,000 for the purchase of the house in which Lincoln died. He was preparing to introduce a second bill purchasing the Oldroyd collection of Lincoln souvenirs for $25,000 when he was elected governor of Texas.

Mr. Oldroyd has refused several offers of $25,000 from individuals for the collection, feeling that the government should own these invaluable relics. Three influential members of congress have recently revived the matter of buying the relics and it is expected that the proposition will be so advanced by the time the world's fair opens that they may be displayed to all visitors.

Among the thousands of interesting articles in the collection are books and miscellaneous articles once the property of Mr. Lincoln; autograph letters, documents and pictures, illustrating his early life and homes; scenes in his life illustrating his journey from Springfield to be inaugurated president in 1861; pictures illustrating the assassination and funeral of the president. The collection also contains photographs and authentic relics of Booth, the president's assassin. There is a black-locust rail split by Lincoln in 1830; the chair used by him in his law office at Springfield, and in which he sat when he formed his first cabinet and drafted his first inaugural address before he left for Washington.

The collection is now stored in the old house at 516 Tenth street, in Washington, opposite the building that was Ford's theater. In a small room at the end of the hall in the old house Abraham Lincoln breathed his last on the night of April 11, 1865. Photographic views of the house, and of the room in which the president died, will be comprised in the collection.

WONDERFUL LINCOLN COLLECTION

Today Is Anniversary of the Assassination of the Martyred President Abraham Lincoln.

1915

Washington, D. C., April 14.—Editor Capital: Ford's old theater on Tenth street, N. W., between E and F, where President Lincoln was assassinated, and the house just across the street where he died, were points of great interest to me when I first came to Washington, as they doubtless are to everyone who visit this city for the first time. But as I pass the place twice each day going to and from my work, I almost forget to remember its sad and tender associations. I think it is true of all Americans that old things tire us and to be interested we must have something new every day.

The anniversary of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln again falls on Friday this year, the 14th instant. In Hay's and Holland's "Life of Lincoln," we have graphic descriptions of the assassination and the funeral arrangements. It is noted here that out of the large escort of the noted personages from the army and navy and the pall bearers from the house and senate but two are known to be living at this time. Henry G. Worthington and Alexander H. Goffroth, at that time members of congress. Both of these gentlemen enjoy good health at the age of eighty years. At that time Mr. Worthington was a member of congress from Nevada, while Mr. Coffroth was a member from Pennsylvania, where he still resides. Mr. Worthington lives at Cumberland, Md.

The old theater stands just as it did on that dreadful day. It was closed immediately following the assassination and remained so out of respect to the dead president. When all that was mortal of the dead president was laid away the government offered Mr. Ford $100,000 for the theater which was accepted, and there never was another play put upon its boards. The theater is now used as a branch of the pension bureau. Across the street in the little three-story brick hotel where Lincoln died, is found the Oldroyd Lincoln memorial collection. The collection was begun by Mr. Oldroyd when a boy of seventeen at his home in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. In the forty years since the death of the president he has made it the purpose of his life, and no one can visit this wonderful collection without appreciating the labor and untiring patience of the man, to say nothing of the collection itself which seems complete. In one room there are a thousand biographies of Lincoln and the civil war, besides 250 sermons preached upon his death. It seems strange that the government does not own this collection. There was a bill passed the senate last winter for the purchase of this collection but for lack of time or inclination it did not pass the house.

One other memorial to the martyred president is the preservation of his pew in the New York Avenue Presbyterian church. Some years ago when the church was remodeled and modern pews were put in, the plain black walnut one in which Lincoln sat was retained in its simplicity, with only the addition of a silver plate bearing his name put upon the arm.—Jim Bolton.

THE LINCOLN RELICS IN WASHINGTON MUSEUMS

After his assassination at Ford's Theater on the night of April 14, 1865, he was carried across 10th street to Peterson's lodging house, where he died next morning. Twelve years ago the government paid $30,000 for this house, which already contained the Lincoln collections that had been removed from the Lincoln homestead at Springfield, Ill., by their owner, O. H. Oldroyd, a veteran of the civil war. These Oldroyd collections, which have now grown to more than 3,000 items, and which represent fifty years of indefatigable collective enterprise, are still on view in this house, where Lincoln died.

* *

Entering the museum, the visitor passes two parlors on the left and is ushered into the death chamber at the rear of the hall. It is a narrow room occupied by a young infantry volunteer at the time of the tragedy. It contains funeral paraphernalia taken from the catafalque and numerous other exhibits bearing upon the death and funeral; but unfortunately the bed in which the President died was sold at auction after the death of the tailor who kept the lodging house. The purchaser sold it in Chicago for $550 and two weeks later was offered $1,000 for it. The present owner has agreed to donate it to the collection whenever the government shall make the little museum fireproof. Back of this room is a larger one occupied by servants of the lodging house at the time. Here is installed a library of 4,000 works and articles bearing on Lincoln and the tragedy. Through this is reached a large rear room in which is seen the furniture from the Lincoln homestead. The most conspicuous of the many items are the Lincoln cook stove, the walnut cradle in which Lincoln himself often rocked his children to sleep, his office chair, in which he sat when he wrote his first inaugural address; two horsehair sofas, a settee, his favorite home chair—a horsehair rocker with very tall back, and a little pigeon-holed desk, upon which lies the framed copy of a letter from the donor, whose husband, she says, was once visited by Lincoln, who, entering with the desk in two pieces, said: "Will, you take my old desk and give it room in your house, as it is the first desk I used when I commenced to do business for myself? Mrs. Lincoln, in one of her passions, threw it into the street because I upset the ink."

* *

In the front parlor of this house Mrs. Lincoln rested on the night of the tragedy when she was not beside the President's death bed. Here are shown the original spur which tripped Booth—causing him to break his leg while he was escaping from the President's box—and the flag in which the spur caught. Here are also relics of the arsenal prison, in which the conspirators were confined, as well as original portraits of all of the conspirators themselves. A ghastly series of relics nearby are photographs showing the various steps in the execution of the conspirators and twists of the ropes by which they were hanged. Here are also relics of the barn in which Booth was shot, and locks cut from his hair while his body lay in a naval vessel off the Washington navy yard.

A black locust rail, to which is attached the affidavit of John Hanks, Lincoln's cousin, that it was split by the great rail splitter and none other, hangs in the archway between the front parlor and that to the rear, in which, on the night of the assassination were gathered the various officials of state, who awaited the death of the President. In this year room is a museum of relics of the Lincoln campaigns, including framed copies of the scores of notable cartoons caricaturing Lincoln. Besides these articles named the little museum contains 1,000 Lincoln biographies, 250 memorial sermons preached the Sunday following his death, ninety funeral marches dedicated to him, 250 medals bearing his likeness and 3,000 classified newspaper clippings relating to him. Some of the most celebrated of his recent biographers have spent days at the house making researches among these data.

* *

In this room are also fifty distinct photographs of Lincoln, the last made upon the south portico of the White House a few days before his death. But that, regarded as the most characteristic of all his portraits shows the President and his favorite "Tad" glancing over a book, in the attitude in which Brady, the celebrated war photographer, found them when he entered the room. The book which the two are perusing has been proclaimed over the land ever since as the Bible, but in reality it was a photograph album. According to Mr. Oldroyd, who has traced up the circumstances under which each of these photographs was taken, Lincoln had none of them made voluntarily, but was good-natured in posing, especially for poor photographers who, he realized, would benefit financially by having a negative of him. Thus that known [illegible] the Gardner photograph was made [illegible] day when the President was walk[illegible] 7th street. Gardner, who happe[illegible] be standing outside his gallery, importuned the President on the street and the latter, although not knowing the hustling photographer, accommodated him by going upstairs and submitting to the slow tortures of the old wet-plate process of those days.

* *

Out of the front windows are seen, directly across the street, the great gray facade of the old Ford's Theater, whose curtain, rung down after the flight of Booth across its stage, never again rose upon a play. The playhouse was immediately closed by Secretary of War Stanton, and subsequently an investigation exonerated Mr. Ford from any responsibility for the tragedy. Ford thereupon sought heavy damages for the suspension of his business and the dispute was ended by the government's purchasing the theater. It was then converted into a medical museum for the army, and it was a ghastly coincidence that the verebrae of Booth's neck and the part of the spinal cord penetrated by Boston Corbett's fatal bullet were both exhibited in this museum as curious specimens of morbid anatomy from a gunshot wound. When the medical museum to the present building National Museum they were taken there and are now on exhibition to physicians, along with the peculiarly enlarged spleen of Guiteau, the assassin of Garfield. At the time of the McKinley assassination an enterprising newspaper photographer applied for a permit to photograph these specimens for the illustration of a timely article, but he was informed that permission would be given only on condition that publication be limited to scientific treatises.

In the old stable back of the theater Booth's remains, rolled in a blanket, were stored for a time after having been exhumed from their secret grave in the arsenal grounds and before being reinterred in a second secret grave in the Baltimore cemetery, where they are believed to still repose at an unmarked spot known only to the Booth family and to a few cemetery employes sworn to secrecy.

* *

Old-time negroes still tell tales of the specters long believed to haunt the old theater and to pursue those who ventured upon the adjacent alley leading to this stable. To these phantoms some attributed the terrible fatality which occurred within the theater building some fifteen years ago, after the removal of the medical museum therefrom and after its occupation as an annex to the War Department, as it still is at this time. This second tragedy within the building was a collapse of its floors which killed many government employes, maimed many more and cost the government thousands of dollars in damages.

The chair in which Lincoln was sitting in the theater box when shot on that Good Friday night of '65 is now stored at the National Museum, where it has never been placed on exhibition. The National Museum, however, displays a Prince Albert coat and cravat once worn by Lincoln, and which were obtained from

a colored man to whom they had been given before the tragedy. It also has the high silk hat which the martyr President wore to the theater on the night of the assassination. But more important items of the National Museum's collection are the original Lincoln death mask made by the sculptor, Clark Mills, just after the President's death; also the original life mask made at Springfield in 1860, just after Lincoln's first nomination by the sculptor, Leonard Volk, who accompanied the notification committee from Chicago. At the same time Volk made casts of Lincoln's hands, also shown in the National Museum collection. Before placing the clay upon the right hand Volk asked the candidate if he would not clench a bit of wood in the palm. Mr. Lincoln at once darted into the woodshed with one of Mrs. Lincoln's brooms and sawed about five inches off the end of the handle, which cylinder of wood is seen in the cast.

* * *

Two years ago a Tennessee attorney, whose name is withheld, offered the Smithsonian the alleged body of J. Wilkes Booth, which, he said, he had in his possession and had had mummified. According to this man, the supposed assassin, shot by Sergt. Boston Corbett, was not really Booth who escaped and became a client of his, afterward committing suicide in the Grand Avenue Hotel, Enid, Okla., January 14, 1903.

"I knew Booth as John D. Heley, while living in 1872," writes this attorney, "and was associated with him as my client until the fall of 1877, when we separated in western Texas, he going to Leadville, Col., and I returning to Memphis. Booth left with me a small tintype for his future identification. This picture was taken some twelve years after the assassination of Lincoln, and has been identified by Junius Brutus Booth, eldest nephew of John Wilkes Booth, as being the picture of his uncle. It also has been identified by the famous actor, the late Joseph Jefferson, and many others."

* * *

Recently I received from a lady a letter bearing upon this same case, and the following paragraphs, extracted from it without betraying her name, may be of interest:

"I have recently received a letter from a friend, ——, ——, an actor, who has supported Edwin Booth, John McCullough and Barrett, also starring on his own account, and while playing ——, in the —— early this month he writes me that he visited Enid, Okla., where Wilkes Booth, under the name of D. E. George, died. He did not commit suicide, as widely stated, but drank himself to death, and Mr. —— saw the embalmed body or mummy now in possession of the undertaker there and is firmly convinced that it can be no other than a member of the Booth family, whom he has known very intimately, visiting in their home weeks at a time. He says they never alluded to Wilkes' death, though they spoke of his nature and deed. Mr. —— saw the lawyer to whom money was sent from the east for George's support, and this D. E. George confessed to the lawyer on oath that he was really John Wilkes Booth. Mr. —— also saw scores of people and has their addresses, who have known for years that Wilkes was living.

"Mrs. Garrett declared many times before her death that Booth escaped," continues my correspondent, who very evidently refers to the Mrs. Garrett in whose barn Booth was shot. "There are many other proofs which I will not weary you with. I trust you will excuse my yielding to a sudden impulse to tell you this. I should so much prefer to think he died at once, for what a terrible nemesis were those forty years of painful memory, remorse and constant fear of discovery and capture, haunted by the ghastly scene of the murder and drinking himself to death to secure oblivion. One is reminded of the promise, 'Vengeance is Mine I will repay,' saith the Lord.' For he was punished in the worst possible way."

JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS.

THE SUNDAY STAR, WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 3, 1909.

1916?

ALTHOUGH it is little more than half a century since the death of Abraham Lincoln, discoveries of heretofore unknown relics of the martyr president are of rare occurrence. Indeed, we hear of the disclosure of additional relics of George Washington more frequently than of additions to the known list of mementoes of the Civil War President. One explanation, perhaps, is found in the fact that there are comparatively few private collections of Lincoln relics. It is as though the wealthy men who have expended such vast sums to unearth trophies of Washington, Napoleon and other heroes had not yet awakened to the importance of the souvenirs of Lincoln.

Doubtless the quest on the part of private individuals for Lincoln relics would be pursued more energetically were it not for the manifest difficulty of securing Lincoln's former belongings and the yet greater difficulty of authenticating many of the objects that purport to be Lincoln relics. The martyr president rose from comparative obscurity and this in itself has made it difficult to locate minor objects connected with his boyhood and early life. Then, too, the circumstance that his activities covered widely-separated localities in Kentucky, Illinois, etc., has further complicated the task of tracing his one-time belongings. Lincoln relics, when they do come into the market via the medium of collectors' auction sales, invariably bring big prices. A Lincoln autograph or especially an autograph letter will always provoke spirited bidding; damaged and discarded pieces of the White House china made for Mrs. Lincoln and used on the presidential table during the Lincoln administration command prices of $30 to $50 each; and a lock of Lincoln's hair recently brought $800 when sold at auction.

Some of the most interesting of the Lincoln relics are believed to be in the possession of Mr. Robert Lincoln, the only living son of the martyr president. However, Mr. Lincoln, who has but lately retired as president of the Pullman Car company, has not only never exhibited his relics publicly, but has never taken the public into his confidence regarding the exact character of the mementoes he possesses or what ultimate disposition he has planned to make of them. Even more valuable, however, than the Robert T. Lincoln collection is that which represents the life work of Osborn H. Oldroyd, a veteran of the Civil war and a most devoted admirer of Lincoln. It stands today as the greatest collection ever compiled by one man in tribute to a popular hero and its value has been variously estimated at from $100,000 to $250,000.

The collector began to accumulate Lincoln relics some time before the Springfield lawyer was nominated for president, and he has continued his labor of love ever since, with the result that he now has considerably more than 3,000 articles pertaining to the great idol. Some years ago the Congress of the United States gave him permission to place his relics in the house in Washington in which Lincoln died, and this unpretentious brick structure, which is now owned by Uncle Sam, has since been the home, rent free, of this persistent collector and the treasures which he has gathered together from all parts of the country at great expense.

What is generally accounted the most valuable of all Lincoln relics has a prominent place in this self-same collection. It consists of a heavy frame, sheltering under glass the last communication ever penned by Lincoln and, attached to the precious missive, a lock of Lincoln's hair. This souvenir, which was originally in the possession of the man who was steward at the White House during the Lincoln regime, is valued at $5,000, but it is doubtful if even that sum would buy it today. Persons who have been ignorant of the existence of this relic have designated other communications as the final handwriting of the martyr president, but in reality the honor unquestionably belongs to this small white card with its few hastily-penned lines. Novel and interesting are the circumstances connected with the origin of this priceless memento.

As Lincoln emerged from the White House on the fated night of April 14, 1865, on his way to Ford's theater, the steward hurried after him to explain the predicament of two gentlemen who had been waiting at the White House for some time in order to obtain from the president a permit to pass through the Union lines to Petersburg, Va. It was the theater hour and Mrs. Lincoln was already seated in the carriage, but the ever-obliging president paused a few minutes to write a few lines, explaining that no pass was necessary to go and return from Petersburg and Richmond and that "People go and return just as they did before the war." He handed this to the steward, reiterating verbally the statement made in the penned memorandum. The steward, realizing that the written explanation was really superfluous, and seizing a long-sought opportunity to secure a trophy of the beloved president, retained in his own possession the bit of handwriting and repeated to the waiting visitors the president's oral assurances on the subject. Later, after the death of Lincoln, the steward induced the physician in charge to allow him to have a lock of Lincoln's hair.

One of the most interesting of the relics identified with the life of Lincoln before he entered the White House is the family Bible—considerably more than one hundred years old—which contains the family chronicle usually recorded in the spaces provided in such a book. From this well-worn volume Lincoln's mother read the Scriptures to him when he was a boy and on the inside cover is the autograph of Lincoln written when he was nine years of age. The cook stove, used by the Lincoln family in the homestead at Springfield, Ill., and the cradle in which all the Lincoln children were rocked have likewise been carefully preserved. Equally significant is the old arm-chair which Lincoln used for years in his law offices at Springfield and in which, following his election to the presidency, he sat pondering by the hour over the problems that confronted him.

Abraham Lincoln was something of an inventor and one of the most highly prized of all the Lincoln relics has to do with his efforts in the field of invention. It is a model designed to illustrate the workings of an ingenious mechanism for changing at will the angles of the wheels of a wagon or other vehicle, and the most interesting feature of it is that this little wooden ve-

J WRIGHT

hicle represents Lincoln's own handiwork, having been laboriously fashioned while he was a young lawyer waiting for clients in Illinois. Another model of a Lincoln invention—a steamboat—was deposited in the patent office and is now the possession of the United States government.

The life and death masks of Abraham Lincoln are, of course, tremendously important as conveying to the present and future generations the exact appearance of this famous man in life and in death. A mask, it will be understood, is a plaster cast of a countenance which reproduces faithfully every detail. One of the life masks of Lincoln that has been preserved was made in 1860, just after Lincoln's first nomination for president, the work being done by a sculptor who accompanied the notification committee to Springfield. Another life mask was made about a month before Lincoln's death. The death mask is perhaps the representation which shows the martyr president as he is best known to the public through pictures and statuary.

Among the relics that have been carefully preserved by the government and by private individuals such as Mr. Oldroyd are many bearing upon the great tragedy which ended Lincoln's career. One of these relics is the flag which was draped in front of the president's box at Ford's theater, the night when Lincoln was shot. The flag shows plainly the rent made by Booth's spur when it caught in the folds as he leaped from the box to the stage. Another interesting relic is the spur itself, which made trouble for the assassin by causing him to fall heavily, breaking his leg and, in consequence, seriously hampered his flight.

LINCOLNIANA

Edited by Paul Fox

The Famous Oldroyd Lincoln Collection Now In Its Permanent Home

By Paul Fox

One of the first men to realize the importance of collecting books and mementos connected with the memory of Abraham Lincoln was Osborne H. Oldroyd. At the age of eighteen, Mr. Oldroyd opened a news stand in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. One day he discovered a book about Abraham Lincoln among some newspapers. He read and re-read this book, and decided that any man who could overcome the many handicaps that Lincoln had, would make a good president, and would be worthy of a lifetime's study.

He determined to collect everything printed about Lincoln, and every memento concerning him, that he possibly could. This determination resulted in the formation of the famous Oldroyd Lincoliana Collection, now in the possession of the United States Government, and housed in the Lincoln Room of Ford's Theatre, Washington, D. C., where Lincoln was assassinated.

Many Interesting Items

In the Oldroyd Collection are many unique items of Lincolniana. They range from the books that the youthful Lincoln studied by the flickering light of the open fire in his rude log cabin home, to the famous gray woolen shawl which he wore when President.

Three well thumbed volumes, beloved companions of Lincoln in his youth, are the Bible, Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," and Weems' "Life of Washington." A profusion of pictures illustrate the life of the Great Emancipator from birth to his tragic death. There are photographs and paintings of Lincoln, and of scenes connected with his life.

One of the most interesting relics is the flag which draped the President's box in Ford's Theatre, the night of the assassination. It was this flag in which the spur of the assassin caught as he jumped, causing him to fall and break his leg. The tear made by the spur can be seen plainly, and the spur that made

(Please Turn to Page 3, Column 3)

Oldroyd Lincoln Collection

(Continued from Page One)

it hangs beside the flag.

Collection Originally in Springfield

The Oldroyd collection was formerly housed in the Lincoln Home in Springfield, Ill. More than thirty years ago, the Memorial Association of the District of Columbia persuaded Mr. Oldroyd to move it to Washington where the old Peterson house, in which Lincoln died, across the street from Ford's Theatre, was rented for the purpose of housing it.

In 1897 this house was purchased by the Government, and from that date until early this year, the collection has been on display there.

Collection Purchased by Government

Some years ago, Henry Ford attempted to purchase the collection, but Mr. Oldroyd's desire to have it remain public property, backed by public opinion that such a collection should not pass into private hands, prevented his doing so. This was influential in having it purchased by the United States Government.

In 1925 Congress authorized its purchase for the sum of $50,000.00. Mr. Oldroyd was made Curator Emeritus, which position he held from that time until his death.

On Lincoln's birthday of this year, the removal of the collection from the Peterson house to its new permanent home in the Lincoln Room of Ford's Theatre was completed, and the display was formally opened on that date. The present curator is Mr. Lewis G. Reynolds.

(Acknowledgement is made to "Lincoln Lore," published by the Lincoln Historical Research Foundation of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, for permission to use the data contained in the above article. Paul Fox.)

3000 Lincoln Relics Placed In the Old Ford's Theater, Where President Was Shot

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The Old Ford's Theater, where John Wilkes Booth's bullet robbed a troubled nation of its leader, today became a public shrine to house the famous Oldroyd collection of 3000 Lincoln relics.

The famous red brick building has not served as a showhouse since "Our American Cousin" was halted with a revolver shot Good Friday night, April 14, 1869. When its rickety interior collapsed in 1893 the Government refused to restore it as a theater, saying it would serve more as a monument to Booth.

But though it has been rebuilt inside to resemble a modern office building, the Oldroyd collection probably created a greater dramatic effect than ever was produced on its gaslit boards. For it pictures every detail of Lincoln's life from the family cradle to the soldering iron used to seal his body in its coffin.

Nor are the intermediate phases neglected. Bills advertising slave sales decorate the walls. Books from Lincoln's law offices and the license given Berry and Lincoln to sell spirits in their general store, at prices restricted to twenty-five and fifty cents a pint adorn the shelves. Lincoln earned the title "Honest Abe" when he settled the defunct firm's debts, an eighteen-year task.

Tenth Street between E and F as it was in 1865. The large building in the center is Ford's Theatre where Lincoln was assassinated.

East side of Tenth Street N. W., between E and F as it was in 1865. Note the unpaved street; the carriage blocks and hitching posts; the unpretentious houses and the general dilapidation of the whole block. The large building in the center was Ford's Theatre where Abraham Lincoln was shot by the assassin J. Wilkes Booth on the night of April 14th. The injured President was carried out of the theatre, and across the street to the home of Wm. Petersen, where he passed away at 7.22 the next morning, after lingering more than 9 hours—unconscious every instant.

The theatre building was originally a Baptist Church, and used as such for more than 15 years. It was used as a theatre for less than 3 years, from 1862 to 1865—never used as a theatre after the night of the assassination. Taken over immediately by Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, made over into a 3-story building for use of the War Department, so used for many years and afterwards, until now, as a Government storehouse. On April 9th, 1893 (the 28th anniversary of Appomatox) while repairs were being made, the 3 floors collapsed, killing 22 clerks and injuring 68. The small building to the left of the theatre was then a saloon, wherein Booth took brandy to nerve him for his deed. The 3-story building adjoining the theatre on the right was the private dwelling of Harry C. Ford, manager of the theatre for his father, John T. Ford. All structures on the entire block, except only the theatre building, have long since been removed.

Ford's Theater Has a Pull For Students of Lincoln

Thousands of Visitors Go Through the Old-Fashioned Building Where John Wilkes Booth Shot the Emancipator—Place of Death Across the Street.

By Jack Williams.
(A Member of The Star's Staff.)

WASHINGTON—The immortality of Abraham Lincoln nowhere is more simply symbolized than in the structural neighbors which today sandwich old Ford's theater at 511 Tenth street N. W. in Washington.

It was in a flag-draped box of the theater the night of April 14, 1865, that Lincoln was shot fatally in the head by an assassin.

The old tavern and rooming house to the south of the 86-year-old theater building have been torn down and replaced by a modernistic structure which houses the capital's power and light company. To the north of the theater is a television shop.

Attraction for Crowds.

Those modern neighbors are in vivid contrast with the somber Lincoln shrine into which the ancient theater was converted in 1932. More than 100,000 persons visit it annually, and most of them cross the street to view the "House Where Lincoln Died." Both now are owned by the government and operated by the national park service of the Department of the Interior.

After one pays the government the 10-cent admission charge and puzzles over the collection of a federal tax, the first impression is one of disappointment. There is no semblance of the old theater—no vaulted ceiling, boxes or the two balconies which once rose high in the building.

Where is the box where the President fell and the stage upon which the assassin, John Wilkes Booth, leaped and was said to have shouted: "*Sic semper tyrannis*" (ever thus to tryants).

Impatiently, one may go to the office in the rear of the large first room and find Donald Caulfield, historian of the Lincoln museum. He has the explanation for the lack of color in the old building which houses many of the possessions and writings of Lincoln and the post-murder diary of Booth.

The old theater was seized by the government after the assassination. The following June, two months after Lincoln died, it was returned to the theater owners. The theater announced a reopening date. It was to be July 10. But there was so much indignation from the public and opinion was so aroused that the government again seized the building and prohibited its future use as a theater. The owners threatened to sue.

The government rented the structure and then appropriated $100,000 for acquiring it. The theater interior was removed and the building converted into a 3-story office building to be occupied by government agencies until 1932.

The museum is located on the first floor. The second is used for storage and the third is unused.

Souvenirs Under Glass.

Caulfield explains that the theatrical equipment was lost in the remodeling and was not preserved. In a large glass frame there is one bit of the trapping of the eventful night. It is a large flag of the U. S. Treasury guards which hung from Lincoln's box. There is a small rip in one corner. It is said to have been caused when the spur of Booth's right boot caught in it as he leaped out of the box. It caused the slayer to lose his balance and he broke a bone in his left leg just above the ankle when he struck the stage, eleven feet below.

At the rear of the room, where the stage was located, black lines on the floor indicate the stage outline and the location of the box. The path of the escaping slayer across the stage is marked by painted outlines made from the measurements of Booth's boots. The boots, as well as those Lincoln wore, [illegible] in the museum.

The theater seated approximately 1,700 persons and was one of the finest of its day.

To the original $100,000 invested in the old theater, the government appropriated another $50,000 in 1926 to acquire the famous Osborn H. Oldroyd collection of Lincolniana. Mr. Oldroyd has spent sixty years in gathering the collection which was placed in the museum. The collection formerly was displayed in the old Lincoln home in Springfield, Ill. Before the old Ford's theater was readied for the collection, it was kept in the "House Where Lincoln Died."

The museum is filled with cabinets of the Oldroyd collection and other pieces which have been added. They include the single-shot pistol Booth used to send a bullet into Lincoln's head above the left ear as he watched the play.

Booth's diary in which he, a great actor of his day, dramatically describes himself as a great actor still, is a part of the exhibit. Pictures and records tell of the rewards offered for the killer and his accomplices, the chase, the trial and the final executions of Booth's befrienders.

Value in An Old Rail.

Books from Lincoln's law library, the rail used to carry Lincoln into the Illinois Republican convention in 1860 and many pieces of furniture from the Lincoln home and office are in the exhibits. When the rail was used at the political convention Lincoln was hailed by his adherents as "The Rail Candidate for President."

On the walls are many drawings and on pedestals are a score of Lincoln busts. In a case are life masks made of the Emancipator's hands and head. A pair of iron knuckles, eye shields for disguise and a dagger, once carried by the President, are on display. It was said they served as protective measures after a report that the President had been the intended victim of an assassination plot in Baltimore.

Caulfield explains that because there is such great interest in the Lincoln Museum it is kept open from 9 o'clock in the morning until 9 o'clock at night every day in the year except Christmas.

The exterior is red brick. The elaborate masonry of the theater's first floor has been done over and the wide portals into the lobby converted into windows.

One may spend days in reading the manuscripts and studying the exhibits, but the most reverent thrill comes when the street is reached again. The visitor usually walks across the street and stands and gazes back at the exterior, imagining the fine old theater that once was inside the tragic night of 1865. You can almost hear the shrieks of the anguished wife and the hoofs of Booth's horse as he sped away into Maryland. Aided by Southern sympathizers he hid in a barn on Garrett's farm, near Port Royal, Va., where he was shot and killed twelve days after the death of President Lincoln.

The tomb-like "House Where Lincoln Died"—another dime and 2-cent federal tax attraction—is just across the street from the museum. It closes at 5:30 each day, instead of 9, probably because many a visitor prefers not to visit there after dark.

When it was discovered that the pistol wound was mortal, a physician decided against sending the dying Lincoln over the cobblestones to the White House a few blocks away. The President was carried across the street to the home of William Petersen.

A narrow hall runs past a small double parlor and living room and into a bedroom. The room is 18 feet 2 inches by 9 feet 11 inches. The ceiling is low. One stands by the bed and reads that it was here Mr. Lincoln suffered through the night before his death early the next morning. He was too long for the bed and had to be placed diagonally, a card on the wall informs the visitor. One feels almost tightly shut up with a great tragedy of death as he stands in the silent room.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1950.

Story of an Admirer of Lincoln

Wash (D.C.) Post 2-11-40

By Thomas M. Owen, Jr.

Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday will be celebrated February 12 wherever the American flag flies, was a gentle and understanding man whose heart, moved by his own unhappy experiences, aided him in trying to solve many of those baffling problems left as a result of a great civil war.

The life of Lincoln, his lack of preparation, meager education, indomitable will and understanding of the forces which actuated his fellows was the inspiration of Osborn H. Oldroyd, who spent 66 years in gathering from the far corners of the United States every Lincoln relic that it was possible for him to secure.

Washingtonians will wish to visit the Lincoln Museum, composed of two Tenth street buildings—the old Ford Theater, where the President was mortally wounded by John Wilkes Booth on the night of April 14, 1865, and the old Peterson home, opposite the theater, where the great man died on April 15, 1865.

The endeavor of Capt. Oldroyd was unique and resulted in surmounting many obstacles.

Osborn Oldroyd, a native of Ohio, saw unusual military service with Ohio troops in many campaigns in the South. It is related that in one battle alone he received three wounds, but that he would not leave his command. His steadfastness of istic passed to him through an English father and an American mother. It stood him in good stead through his long and useful life.

For every effect there must be a cause. So it was in the life of Oldroyd.

During the political campaign of 1860 Mr. Oldroyd, then but 18, was conducting a newsstand in Mount Vernon, Ohio. One day he came across a "bundle of papers," and among the papers was a little book, entitled "Life, Speeches and Public Services of Abram Lincoln Together With a Sketch of the Life of Hannibal Hamlin." The little book turned out to be the Wigwam edition of the Republican Handbook of 1860.

The young man read and reread the book until he knew its contents by heart, and the purpose grew in his soul to devote his life, as far as possible, to collecting every item about Mr. Lincoln, whether he was elected as President of the United States or not.

After his discharge from the Army, while on his way home from service, he was given three telegrams which related the news of the wounding of the President and his death. These items he treasured and, with the little book he had saved, as well as several other ietms he had managed to obtain, the greatest collection of relics about one man was begun.

During an eight-year period he was employed by his State. While rendering service to his disabled comrades he pursued the collection of materials. Soon he had a large number of letters, newspaper clippings, pieces of furniture and pictures.

It was in 1883 that the Oldroyd family removed to Springfield, Ill., and Capt. Oldroyd arranged to rent the Lincoln homestead, which had been built by Mr. Lincoln before his election to the Presidency. Into this home many of the objects were moved and installed, and Capt. Oldroyd had something definite to talk about when he went after some unusual object which was to be added to the collection. In a few years the house was presented to the State of Illinois by Robert Todd Lincoln and made a shrine, and Oldroyd was granted permission to continue his residence therein.

In 1893 the collection and the Oldroyd family removed to Washington and installed in the old Peterson homestead at 516 Tenth street, the building in which President Lincoln had died.

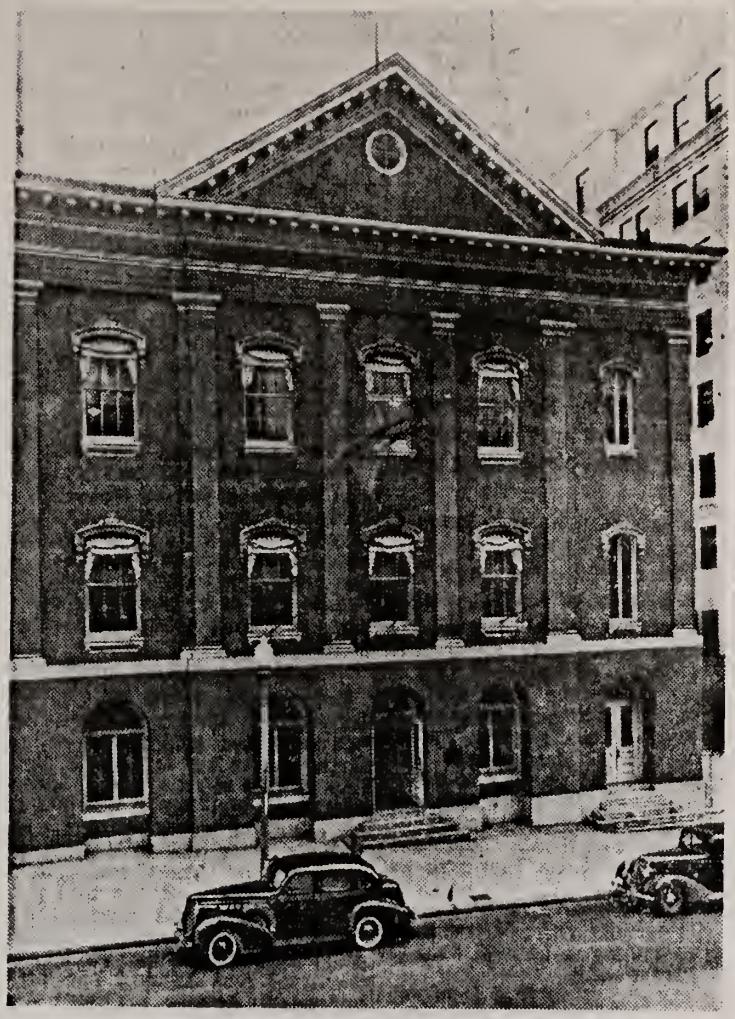
President Lincoln, like many public men of his day, had led a varied life. He had resided in several places, had seen military service, purpose was an inherent character had waged political warfare, had been discussed in the newspapers and had portraits and cuts of himself made.

When the collection gathered through the years by Capt. Oldroyd was purchased in August 30, 1926, by the United States Government the sum of $50,000 was paid for it. The collector was then 84 years of age, and though asked to remain as its custodian, accepted only a corner where he could relive the moments which had engaged him when collecting his priceless treasures.

Today the collection numbers several hundred items, each authentic, with unusual historical notes as to its source.

In the early days all of the Lincoln mementos were housed in the old Peterson home, which also was the residence of Capt. Oldroyd and his family. Today many of the items are displayed on the first floor of the old Ford Theater.

Little remains of the theater as it was on that fateful night in April, 1865. The building has been remodeled several times, and was for a long number of years used as a depository for "rebel archives." The upper floors contain several collections of record which have been placed in the building for safekeeping.



The Old Ford's Theater, Where Abraham Lincoln Was Fatally Shot, Is Visited by Thousands of Tourists Annually. The Building Is Owned by the Government—(Photographs courtesy National Park Service).

The Most Interesting Lincoln Relics

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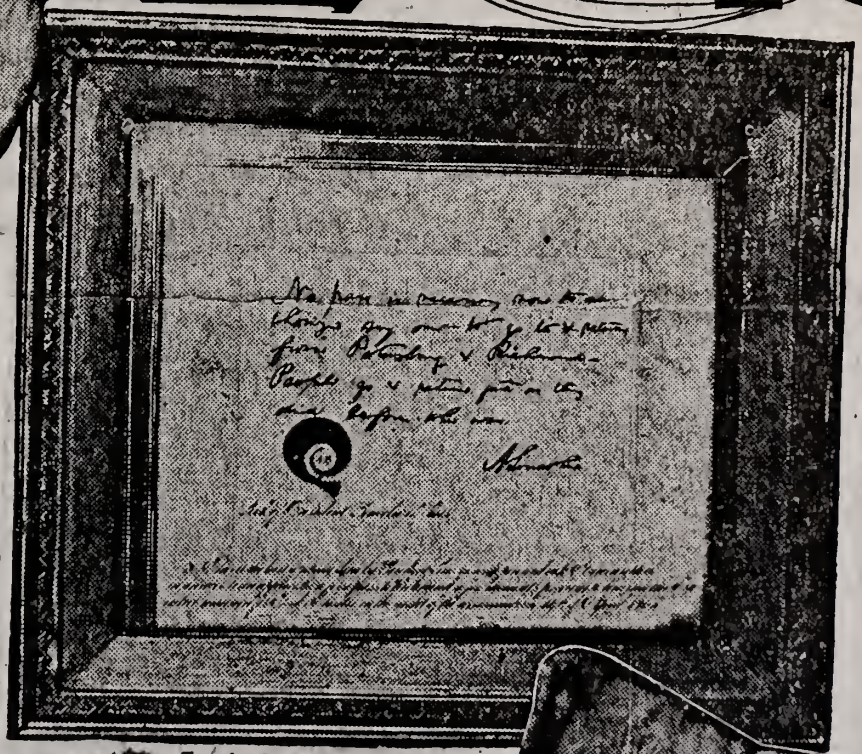
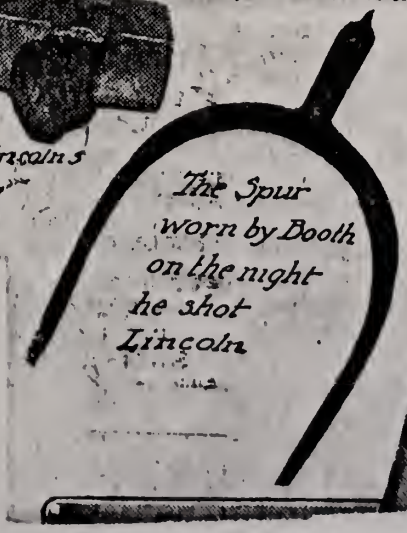


The Last Handwriting of Lincoln and a Lock of his Hair

Model of one of Lincoln's inventions, made by Lincoln himself

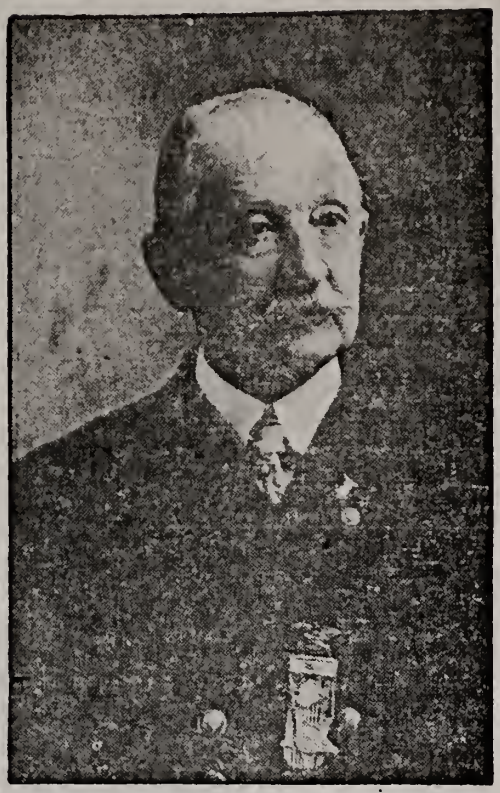


The Spur worn by Booth on the night he shot Lincoln

THE LINCOLN FAMILY BIBLE

Lincoln's Office Chair, used in his law office at Springfield, Ill.

HEADS LINCOLN MUSEUM



O. H. Oldroyd, veteran of the Civil War, was the founder and continues to be the manager of the famous Oldroyd collection of Lincoln mementoes which constitute the Lincoln National Museum in Washington. The collection is located in the house in which Lincoln died, directly opposite Ford's theatre on Tenth Street, which was the scene of the assassination by John Wilkes Booth. Mr. Oldroyd, when keeper of a newsstand in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, in 1860, began his collection of Lincoln mementoes, and he never has ceased collecting them. Mr. Oldroyd is a born collector. Before Lincoln became his hero when he was a youth of 19, collecting was his hobby and he is the possessor of innumerable curios aside from the remarkable Lincoln collection. 1923

LINCOLN RELICS COLLECTION.

Government May Buy It and Make Old House Fire Proof.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 5.—The house committee on public buildings and grounds today agreed to a favorable report on the Rodenberg bill to purchase the Oldroyd collection of Lincoln relics, now located in the house in Washington in which Lincoln died, and said to be one of the most complete collections of the kind in the country. The bill also provides for the purchase of property adjoining the house, which is now owned by the government, in order that the house in which Lincoln died may be made fire proof. 1905

THE LINCOLN RELICS.

A bill is now before Congress to purchase the wonderful and exceedingly valuable collection of relics which Capt. O. H. Olroyd has spent his life in gathering. These relics, which were formerly gathered in the Lincoln home at Springfield, are now in the house in which Lincoln died in Washington. Capt. Oldroyd, who saw four years of service in the 20th Ohio, has dvoted all the years since the war to gathering up everything that was associated in any way with the life of the great martyr. In this collection is much of the furniture used in Lincoln's home, the books and desks which he used in his work and an innumerable quantity of likenesses, sketches, newspaper articles and books, and in fact everything that Comrade Oldroyd has been able to find in 44 years that would be associated with or throw any light upon the career of Mr. Lincoln. It is far more complete collection of the things that entered into the daily life of Mr. Lincoln than has ever been gotten together for any great man in history. It is something of inestimable value and the worth of which will rapidly grow as the years recede. The collection is something that should by all means be the property of the United States and carefully preserved in a fireproof building. Lincoln's fame is growing rapidly with every passing year and anything directly and personally connected with him has a tender loving value to every patriotic American. It is strange that Congress has never seen the importance of making this collection the property of the Nation and it should not let another month go by without taking this important step. The amount asked for it is quite small and far less than that offered by private purchasers. Capt. Oldroyd has a laudable desire that this shall become the property of the country which loves and admires Lincoln beyond any other man and he has refused many tempting offers from private collectors in the expectation that Congress would do its duty by the people and secure it for them. Every veteran, wife, widow and son and daughter of a veteran will feel this keenly and nothing that Congress can do will be more acceptable to them than the prompt passage of a bill to acquire the collection for the benefit of the millions of yet unborn Americans who will cherish the memory of Lincoln above that of any other man who ever lived. NATIONAL TRIBUNE WASHINGTON D.C. 2. 4. 1905

The National Tribune

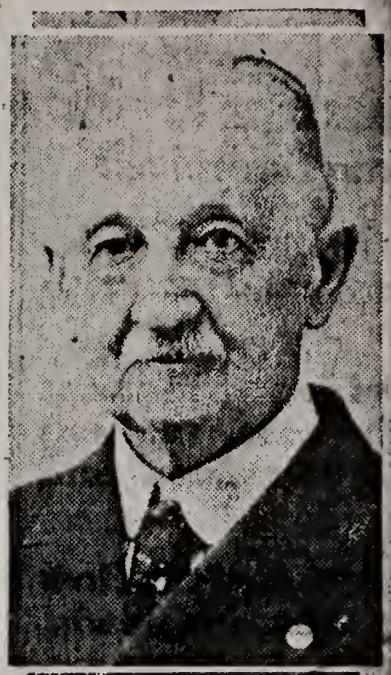
Capt. Oldroyd's Lincolniana.

To spend the Easter Holidays in Washington more than a thousand teachers and pupils came to Washington from New York State alone, and there was a good long list of visitors from other near-by States. It is fair to say that Capt. Oldroyd's Lincoln collection was viewed by one-half the number. The most wonderful collection of portraits and personal mementoes of one man that the United States contains is to be seen in the house in which the martyred President breathed his last, at 516 Tenth Street Northwest, directly opposite the old Ford's Theater, in which he was shot by John Wilkes Booth. The house is the property of the Government, but the collection is the personal property of Capt. Oldroyd, who has spent his life since the Civil War getting together the priceless historic mementos. He has a great deal of the furniture from the Lincoln home in Springfield, Ill., which he bought when he moved in that house many years before coming to Washington, some 30 years ago. He lived in it 10 years, and has been purchasing belongings and mementos, also manuscripts, ever since. The whole collection is arranged to the best advantage and is in perfect order and splendid condition. The house should be repaired and made fireproof, and the Government ought to purchase the entire exhibit, as well as enlarge the building, so that there would be room enough to spread out the articles, especially the pictures. It is a great collection and worth going many miles to see. 4 12 1923

J WRIGHT

He Has Been 63 Years Collecting Relics Of Lincoln

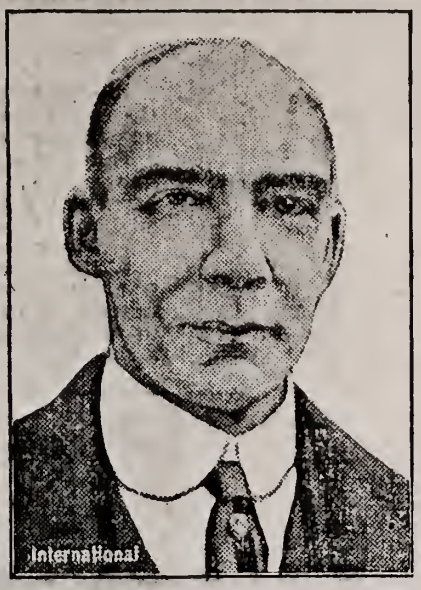
1923



CAPT. OSBORN S. OLDROYD,
Whose collection of Lincoln souvenirs may become a part of the historic collections owned by the Government. Henry Ford offered $50,000 for the collection, which he proposes to move to Detroit. Captain Oldroyd is eighty years old and has spent sixty-three years in accumulating the collection.

1924?

Congress Asked to Buy Lincoln Relics



Representative Henry R. Rathbone of Illinois (portrait herewith) has a bill in congress providing for the purchase for $50,000 of the famous Oldroyd collection of 3,000 Lincoln relics, pictures and documents in the house in Washington where Lincoln died. Oldroyd is eighty-one. He has refused much larger offers for the collection, but he wants it to be the property of the nation and he wants it kept where it is. He cannot bear the thought of the collection being removed from its historic setting or of its being broken up. Said he:

"You know, it was in that back room yonder that Stanton said, 'Now he belongs to the ages.' when Surgeon Taft looked up and said that Mr. Lincoln's pulse had stopped. It was in that room that Robert Lincoln fell a-weeping on Charles Sumner's shoulder when he heard those words. The floor of the room is the same as it was on that April night fifty-nine years ago. The wall paper is the same, the old steel engraving of the village smithy that hung above the bed on which Mr. Lincoln died still hangs on the wall."

Rathbone's father and mother were guests in the Presidential box the night Lincoln was shot and his father, an army officer, was wounded by Booth.

J. WRIGHT

An historic moment, as the camera sees it. Congressman Henry R. Rathbone, of Illinois (right), calls on O. H. Oldroyd, whose Lincoln collection is world famous, and the result is Congressional action to acquire the collection and erect a building to house it. Mr. Oldroyd is showing his visitor his collection of busts of Lincoln. The miniature standing figure is that of Stephen A. Douglas, Lincoln's opponent in the famous debates.

—*Pacific & Atlantic.*

Oldroyd Collection.

* * *

Lincoln Relics for U. S.

The famous Oldroyd collection of 3,000 Lincoln relics, now on display in the house in 10th Street in which the Emancipator died, following his assassination in Ford's Theater, will be purchased by the Government for $50,000, under a bill passed by the House last week. The Senate has already authorized the purchase.

Comrade Osborne H. Oldroyd, who spent more than 50 years making the collection, maintained a private museum, charging an admission fee of 25 cents. It is planned to have the relics on free exhibition, following their pruchase by the Government.

Nat Tribune May 6 1926

* * *

Government to Buy Lincolnia of O. H. Oldroyd

Death House Custodian's Dream Realized.

1926

BY JAMES O'DONNELL BENNETT.

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

Washington, D. C., April 29.—[Special.]—There is a happy old man in Washington this night. He is O. H. Oldroyd, for many years custodian of the Lincoln death house in 10th street, opposite the former Ford's theater, where President Lincoln was shot on the night of April 14, 1865.

In the old brick house, Mr. Oldroyd, now 84 years old, has accumulated at his own expense an immense collection of Lincoln documents, portraits, books and furniture, and for it he has been offered large sums by the state of Illinois and by Henry Ford. Those offers he refused, believing that the only appropriate place for the collection was the house in which the martyr died on the morning of April 15, 1865.

Late this afternoon the house of representatives passed the long pending bill insuring both the preservation of the house as a shrine place and the perpetuity of the Oldroyd collection under government ownership. The price the government will pay for the collection will be far from as large as the one Mr. Ford offered, but Mr. Oldroyd is satisfied, because his dream of a permanent and appropriate abiding place for the Lincoln treasures is now fulfilled.

The senate has already passed the bill.

The happy issue of a prolonged effort is wholly due to the persistence and enthusiasm of Representative Rathbone [Rep., Ill.], who has worked tirelessly in the cause of government purchase of the Oldroyd collection The house has long been government property.

A congressional commission will soon fix the exact price to be offered the veteran collector and Lincoln worshiper. It probably will be $50,000. The present owner remarks apropos of that "preservation, not the price, is the important matter."

* *

LINCOLN DEVOTEE ENDS LONG YEARS OF LABOR

Osborn H. Oldroyd Has Turned His Collection of Relics, Work of a Lifetime, Over to Federal Government —He Will Now Write His Memoirs

By VIRGINIA POPE.

AFTER many years of discussion the famous Oldroyd collection of Lincoln relics has passed into the possession of the Federal Government. For sixty-five years Osborn H. Oldroyd has devoted most of his waking hours to the perpetuation of the memory of Abraham Lincoln. On Sept. 1 his labors received material compensation in the form of a check for $50,000, and the fruits of his tireless efforts became the property of the American people.

A narrow red brick building houses the collection. Its unpretentious façade would pass unnoticed except for an American flag fluttering from a second-story window and a sign, hanging from the wrought-iron rail of the front stairway, on which are the words: "The House in Which Lincoln Died." Yet, the house contains more than 3,000 relics of the most important episodes in the great emancipator's life.

The Colonel, as the white-haired veteran of the Civil War is called, refused to remain as director of the museum, saying he wished to write his memoirs. The privilege of retaining the use of his desk in the corner of the "front room," where it has stood for nearly thirty years, was granted him; and now, although his responsibilities are ended, the stooping figure of the 84-year-old man may be seen mounting the stairway at 516 Tenth Street, N. W., every morning at 9 and descending it every afternoon at 5.

"What else am I to do?" he asks.

Youthful Beginning.

Mr. Oldroyd became interested in the career of Abraham Lincoln when a lad of 18. He noticed the ever-increasing mention of the name in the newspapers—Oldroyd had a news stand in his father's jewelry store in Mount Vernon, Ohio—and was fired with enthusiasm for the rail-splitter, who, with a bare twelve months of schooling, was climbing to such heights. A copy of the Wigwam edition of the "Life, Speeches and Public Services of Abraham Lincoln" was the first seed from which the present museum grew. A born collector, the youth acquired every available photograph and printed speech of the man whose greatness he dimly foresaw.

The war interrupted the task he had set for himself, but events confirmed his early judgment. Oldroyd moved to Springfield, where he occupied the Lincoln home from 1883 to 1893. It had been stripped of its furnishings, Lincoln himself having sold and given them away before his departure for Washington; but some of them found their way back again owing to the tactful manoeuvres of the new tenant, whose reputation as a collector was spreading.

In 1893 Robert Lincoln, partly because of the persuasions of Mr. Oldroyd, presented the Springfield home to the State of Illinois. Collector and collection then found themselves without a home. At a moment when it seemed as if he might have to abandon his treasures, word came from Washington that the boarding house opposite Ford's Theatre, where the President had died, was available. What more suitable place for mementos of the living man?

Saved for the Nation.

For a time the Historical Society created by Congress for preserving historical houses paid for the rent of the building and gave Oldroyd a salary as its caretaker. His struggles were not, however, at an end. The plan was soon abandoned and he found himself confronted with the necessity of financing his own undertaking. The former Union soldier began the real fight of his life. House and contents must be preserved for the American people, he contended, and he brought all the influence he could to bear on Senate and House. In 1897 the House made an appropriation of $30,000 to purchase the building and Oldroyd was enabled to stay on.

The responsibilities of caring for his treasures began to weigh heavily on Mr. Oldroyd, yet he refused the offer of Henry Ford to pay him $50,000 for them on condition that the relics be removed to Detroit. Finally the Government took action, spurred by knowledge that private interests sought to purchase the contents of the museum.

None of the furniture left in the rooms on the night of April 14, 1865, is there now. The only remaining object is a picture that still clings to a nail on the wall above the spot where stood the bed on which the President lay. It is a lithograph of Rosa Bonheur's "Village Blacksmith." The bed, now in the Chicago Historical Society's possession, will, it is said, be presented to the Oldroyd collection, so that it can take its place in the corner where it belongs.

The room in which Secretary Stanton uttered his famous words, "Now he belongs to the ages," opens from the front entrance hall. It is itself little more than a dim corridor. Its garish paper is covered with prints, now familiar to every school child, depicting the last moments of the President. With these reminders the scene seems to become a poignant reality. Other photographs and prints illustrate the journey to the final resting place in Springfield.

The Collector's Labor.

In this apartment of grim memories is a glass case enclosing relics of the funeral. Participants contributed odd objects of interest to Mr. Oldroyd. On the shelves lie two seared and brown wreaths taken from the coffin; sheets of music played by the hand as the cortège passed; a small bolt of white ribbon, remnant of the streamers that hung limp from the catafalque at Springfield, and other similar items.

No stone has been left unturned by Mr. Oldroyd to accumulate as faithfully as possible not only keepsakes but statements from those who had the privilege, denied to him, of knowing his hero. From Dr. Charles Taft he heard the story of the carrying of the wounded man into the house and of the first care administered. A typed notice hanging on the wall gives Henry Safford's account of opening the door to admit the grief-stricken men who were forced to lay their burden diagonally across the bed, owing to the President's length of limb. And from Dr. Ezra Abbott he obtained the minutes kept by him throughout the night while Mr. Lincoln's life ebbed away.

EED

Mr. Oldroyd's spirit of investigation caused him in later years to follow in the trail of Booth, from the moment he left the theatre until his last stand in the tobacco house on Garrett's farm. An entire wall in one of the exhibition rooms of the museum is devoted to pictures of the flight of the conspirators and their trial. Photographs, handbills making known Stanton's offer of $100,000 for the capture of the culprit and pages of the National Police Gazette with a full account of the trial hang side by side.

Masks of Lincoln.

In a case below them repose life and death masks of Lincoln. The former was presented to the Colonial by Leonard Volk, the artist, who told him that Lincoln remarked that he had "made a puckering job of it." The criticism, however, did not prevent the Presidential candidate just after the great triumph at the Chicago Wigwam from allowing the sculptor to make a cast of his hands. One is relaxed as if resting on the side of a chair, the other firmly grasps an object that might be taken for a field marshal's baton.

"It's the end of a broomstick," chuckled the Colonel. "Volk told me that when he asked Lincoln to hold something in his fist, he rose, left the room and in a few minutes returned with a piece of wood, saying, "I cut off the end of the old lady's broomstick. She'll probably get after me with the other part."

Fortune and persistence helped Mr. Oldroyd. He has many anecdotes of the strange manner in which the relics fell into his hands. Watchful waiting played a greater part than chance in many instances. When he asked William Wither, conductor of the orchestra at Ford's Theatre, to give him the coat he wore when he obstructed for a brief second Booth's exit from the wings, the coat on which may still be seen the slashes made by the assassin's knife, he replied: "Oh, you'll get it as you do everything, but you will have to wait until I die."

Death brought him the last example of Lincoln's handwriting and the gray plaid shawl that gave the gaunt figure such a strange appearance. According to the White House usher in attendance, the President was in animated conversation when Mrs. Lincoln sent word that it was time to leave for the theatre. He was about to comply, when the usher reminded him of two men who waited to receive a pass to go into Virginia.

"No pass is necessary now to authorize any one to go to and return from Petersburg and Richmond. People go and return just as they did before the war," he penned.

Oldroyd repeatedly asked the usher for the precious document, only to receive a flat refusal. After fifteen years it was sold to him by the usher's sister-in-law, who found it among the papers of her deceased relative.

Next the room in which Lincoln died is a servant's room now converted into a library whose shelves are stacked to the ceiling with a thousand or more volumes containing biographies of Lincoln and accounts of the Civil War. On one shelf is a row of fat volumes in which are bound more than 250 sermons delivered at the time of the funeral. Nicolay and Hay resorted to these reference books when they wrote their history of the great emancipator. Three thousand five hundred newspaper clippings are filed away in cases; 500 newspapers and 320 magazines form part of the library.

Early Lincoln Relics.

Directly back of the library is a more recent addition to the building. Through its windows the rays of the afternoon sun fall across a black horse-hair sofa. On it lies a card which reads that it was purchased from Miss Lydia Rockwell. The stiff settee with its shiny cover, a companion chair and a mahogany table that stand close by once graced the parlor of the Lincoln home in Springfield. When the family moved to Washington the set was sold to the Rockwell sisters, Mrs. Lincoln's dressmakers, who kept it for many years. Back of the rail, clinging close to the wall, is a bare wooden cradle. Two painted chairs leaning upon each other for support, huddle on its wooden slats. "In it he rocked his children," explains Mr. Oldroyd.

The real treasure, in the collector's opinion, is the plain, round-backed chair presented to him by Herndon, in which Lincoln sat when he wrote his inaugural speech.

A modest desk, such as we would call a child's desk today but one that was evidently dear to the rising politician's heart, is also to be found among the souvenirs of Springfield days.

Here, too, are the iron cook stove used in the Springfield home; a wheel from the family carriage, a wooden bench, made especially for Lincoln, on which he rested on the porch; dining room chairs and a whatnot carved from a walnut bedstead presented by him to a friend.

The romance of Lincoln's life so strongly appealed to him that in his younger days he walked from Springfield to New Salem to talk with the old women who had once been friends of Ann Rutledge; in vain he searched for a photograph of her, only to learn in comparatively recent years that none was ever taken. The days of the Wide-Awake Club are called to mind by the presence of a Wide-Awake torch carried by one William P. Saddler in a political procession that passed by the Springfield house on Aug. 8, 1860; Abraham Lincoln, so the tale goes, raising his hat in salutation to its bright flame.

Spanning the double door between the two parlors to the left of the entrance hall is a black locust rail split by the lanky youth who worked on his father's farm at Decatur. The stout shaft of wood traveled as the gift of Governor Oglesby to the home of Allen Burton in Kentucky and afterward returned to Illinois, where it figured at many meetings. Quite appropriately a fine collection of cartoons and lithographs dealing with the "Rail Candidate" and his campaign are hung nearby.

Lincoln's Little Library.

A few minutes must be spent by every visitor in contemplation of half a dozen books, so yellow and worn that they might fall to pieces were they to be taken from under the glass and handled. There are a Bible, on the fly leaf of which the boy Abraham wrote his name at the age of 9; a copy of "Pilgrim's Progress," whose forcible language had a strong appeal for the young student; the "Life and Adventures of Blackhawk," and several books dealing with the law. Nor can the student of Lincoln leave without inspecting the autograph letters, kept safely under lock and key. Among them are Lincoln's appointment of Grant as Commander-in-Chief and his order removing Major Gen.

Government's Lincoln Relics Preserved by One Man's Work

Gatherer of Famous Oldroyd Collection Started in 1860 to Save Mementos of Emancipator—Tells of Waiting 16 Years for "Scrap of Paper"

1927

Special from Monitor Bureau

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—For the first time on Lincoln's Birthday the famous Oldroyd collection is this year the property of the American people. A few months ago Congress appropriated the money to buy this collection which is housed in the building in which Abraham Lincoln passed on.

Osborn H. Oldroyd began his collection in 1860. At that time he had a news stand in the jewelry store of his father in Mt. Vernon, O. Among the books, magazines and papers that came into his possession was a pamphlet, a campaign publication, detailing the life of Abraham Lincoln. The boy read it avidly. He did not sell it but put it away among his treasures. It became the nucleus of his collection and is still in his possession, or rather in that of the Government to which it has been transferred.

Young Oldroyd wrote to the Pittsburgh publishing house which had brought out the Lincoln pamphlet and asked that everything pertaining to Lincoln be sent to him. He decided to search near and far for Lincoln data. Then the Civil War came along and he was one of the first to go from the Ohio town.

During the years of war he cherished the purpose of seeing President Lincoln, but it was 1865 before he was mustered out and the great war President was also mustered out and the two never met.

Lived in Lincoln's House

The work of collecting was continued. Mr. Oldroyd had a position as steward at the Soldiers' Home in Dayton, O., and he was constantly sending out inquiries and following up clues regarding Abraham Lincoln. Meanwhile he had married a young woman from Springfield, Ill., and later they went to live in Lincoln's old home in Springfield.

There he walked into a congenial atmosphere, old furniture and utensils associated with Lincoln, papers and traditions. For 10 years he lived where Lincoln had lived and then the house for which he had been paying rent was taken over at his urgent recommendation, by the State of Illinois.

Meanwhile some prominent men in Washington persuaded Mr. Oldroyd to come to that city and install his collection in the house associated with the last hours of Lincoln, and here it has been viewed by thousands of persons from all over the world.

The old red brick house, from which the United States flag flies constantly is flanked on either side by business. Across the street stands Ford's Theater, owned by the Government but used for the storage of papers. There has been some talk about restoring the theater to its condition at the time that Lincoln was President, with the stage, the boxes and fittings as they were on the night when light comedy was turned into high tragedy.

Fame Comes to Rooming House

As the lights went down in the theater that night they began to flicker in the rooming house across the street into which was carried the stricken President. Here in a small room at the end of the narrow hall, they laid Lincoln on the bed from which a lodger named Clarke was ousted. He wrote to his sister about

(Continued from Page 1)

it in a framed letter that hangs in the room.

Here are other letters and pictures bearing upon the event. It is a room of shadows. Here the figures of great statesmen and lowly men lurk, touched by a common sorrow. The room is dim now, as it was then. Two smallish windows look out into a narrow space at the rear of shops. There may have been a bit of garden in earlier days.

It is not necessary to say, "Here Lincoln passed." One feels it. Invariably the visitor pauses and drops his voice. In the rooms beyond are other mementoes of Lincoln newspapers containing accounts of the tragedy, books, some of them a part of Lincoln's meager library, portraits of Lincoln by artists of varying talent, family and official groups in which Lincoln appears, medallions, badges.

In the farthest room are an office chair used by Lincoln, in which he sat when he selected his Cabinet and drafted his first inaugural address, a mohair-covered rocking chair labeled "a favorite chair," a table and a desk, a cradle in which his children were rocked and a stove on which the cooking was done in his home in Springfield, Ill.

A Rail He Split

The authenticity of Abraham Lincoln the rail splitter, a sobriquet first used in derision and later in admiration, is attested by a black locust rail with an affidavit by John Hanks, witnessed by Governor Ogilesby, stating that it was split by Lincoln in 1830.

There are posters, caricatures and hand bills of his campaigns, bills of sale of slaves and pictures and data concerning the persons implicated in the assassination, including an original reward bill offering $100,000 for the capture of Booth, Harold and Surratt. The spur worn by Booth, which caught in the draperies of the box as he leaped to the stage, calls up a picture of the sudden, fateful happening.

Two significant relics are the old Bible, on the cover of which Lincoln wrote his name when he was a little boy and out of which his mother read to him, and the last words that the President wrote. Two men accosted him as he was on his way to the theater on the evening of April 14, 1865, and asked him for a pass to Richmond. On a piece of paper he wrote: "No pass is necessary now to authorize anyone to go and return from Petersburg and Richmond. People go and return just as they did before the war. A. Lincoln."

Waiting for Scrap of Paper

When Mr. Oldroyd was seeking additions to his collection he tried to trace the last writing of Lincoln and heard that it was in the possession of a messenger in the White House. Going to him he asked if he were willing to let this scrap of paper be incorporated with the collection. The man replied that no money would buy it.

"If you ever decide to let it go, remember that I want it," Mr. Oldroyd told the messenger and every now and then, for 15 years, he would go to the White House and see this man, never repeating his request but just reminding him that he was still waiting. After the messenger had passed on, Mr. Oldroyd asked the widow about the paper, but she replied in the same words, that no money could buy it.

A year later when she had passed on, her sister came to Mr. Oldroyd and said that the precious paper should go to his collection. "I waited 16 years for it," said Mr. Oldroyd. "Do you see that shawl?" He pointed to a large black-and-white checked shawl under glass on the wall. "I waited 15 years for that. A woman from Chicago visited my collection and told me that she had a shawl worn by Mrs. Lincoln, but she would not part with it. After she was gone her daughter came in and presented the shawl to the collection."

In the course of his collecting Mr. Oldroyd did a great deal of traveling, often on foot. In Illinois he heard that Lincoln used to walk from Salem to Springfield to borrow law books, and that on the way back he would be seen walking along the road reading. Mr. Oldroyd went over the same course on foot. "I did not ask anyone if they remembered seeing Lincoln reading along the road because they would have said they did," he said shrewdly, "but I asked if there were any men who had been living there many years.

Where Lincoln Walked

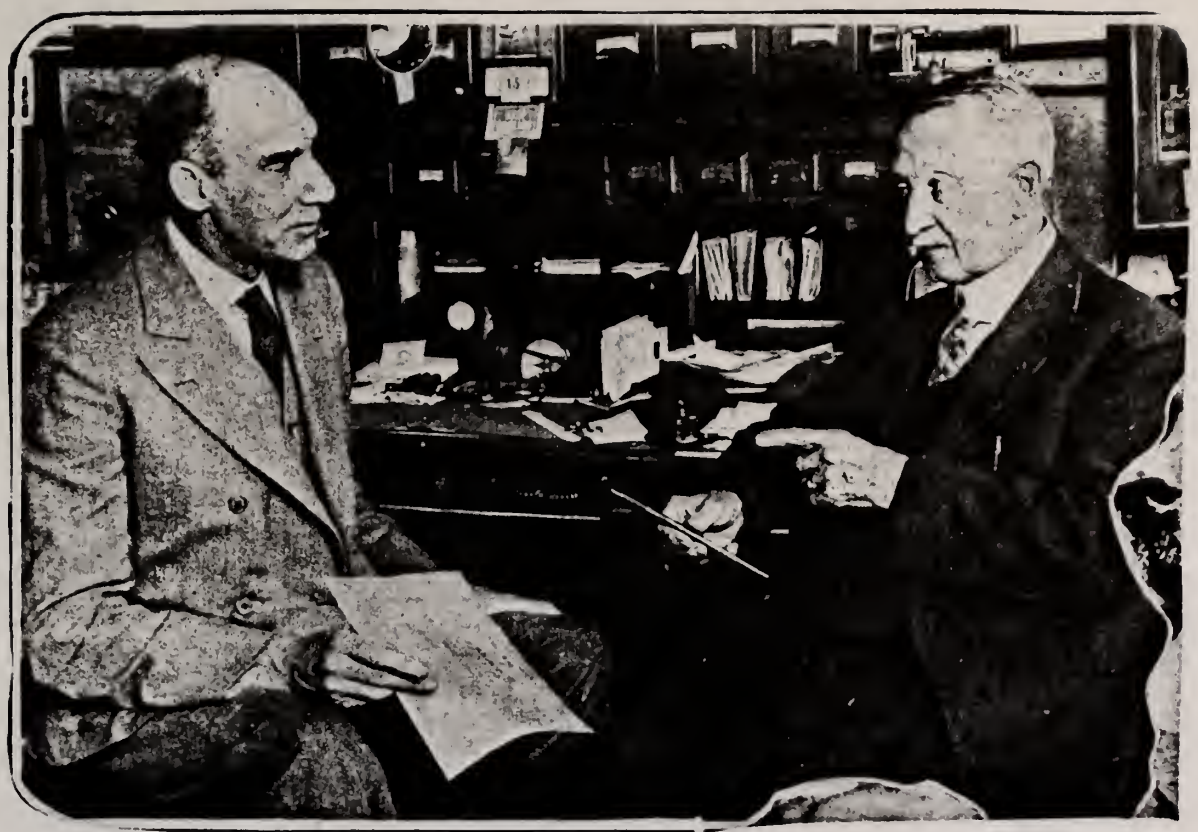
"I heard of one old man and had a talk with him. 'You have seen many persons going along that road?" I said to him. 'Oh, yes,' said the old man. "Do you remember any of them?' I asked him, and he named several, including Abraham Lincoln. Then I got another who had lived there for years and years who told me the same thing, and I felt that the evidence was good."

Mr. Oldroyd has had many offers for his collection, including one from Henry Ford, which is said to have been $50,000.

"I am glad that the Government has taken my collection," said Mr. Oldroyd. "I expect it will be hard for me to stay away from it. I have been here so long." His eyes roved affectionately over the dingy rooms and the accumulated relics.

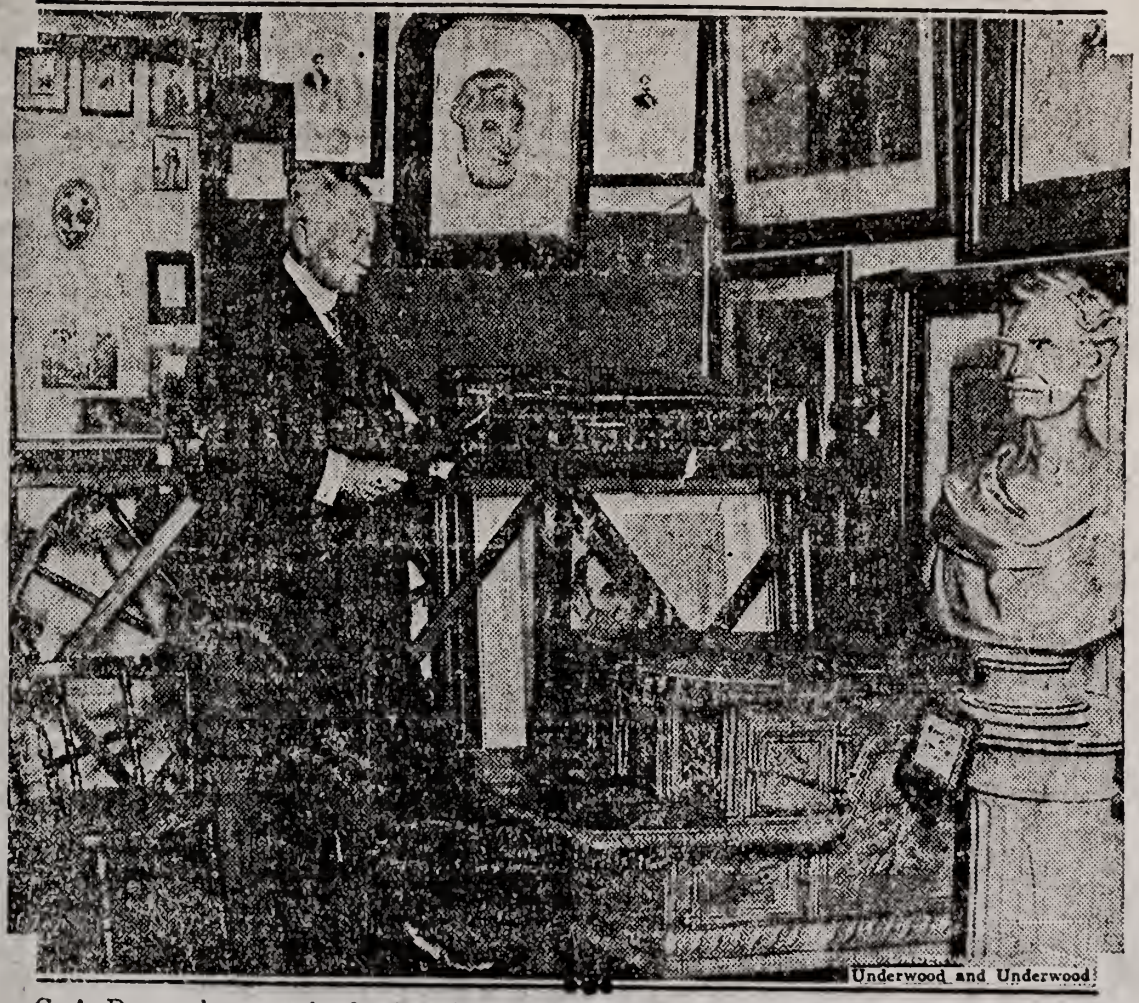
Henry R. Rathbone (R.), Representative from Illinois, has introduced a bill in Congress to establish a national memorial war museum and veterans' headquarters in the building known as Ford's Theater, moving the Oldroyd collection into it. Another bill would restore the theater as nearly as possible to the condition it was in at the time of Lincoln's passing.

"I don't know," said Mr. Oldroyd, looking across at the gray building. "The Government finally bought this house and maybe it will make a museum out of the old theater. Anyhow it's the Government's business now."



Above—Famous Collection of Lincoln Relics at Washington, D. C., Purchased by the Government. Representative Henry R. Rathbone (Left) of Illinois, Sponsor of the Bill, and O. H. Oldroyd (Right), Who Has Spent a Lifetime Gathering Together Mementos of the Great Emancipator.

LAUNCH MOVE FOR ANOTHER LINCOLN MUSEUM



G. A. R. members are back of project to establish "Lincoln shrine" in Ford's Theater, Washington, which is owned by goverment. It is proposed to turn Oldroyd collection of Lincolniana, now U. S. property, into museum of Lincoln relics and memoirs. O. H. Oldroyd is seen with some of his priceless mementoes of the martyred president.

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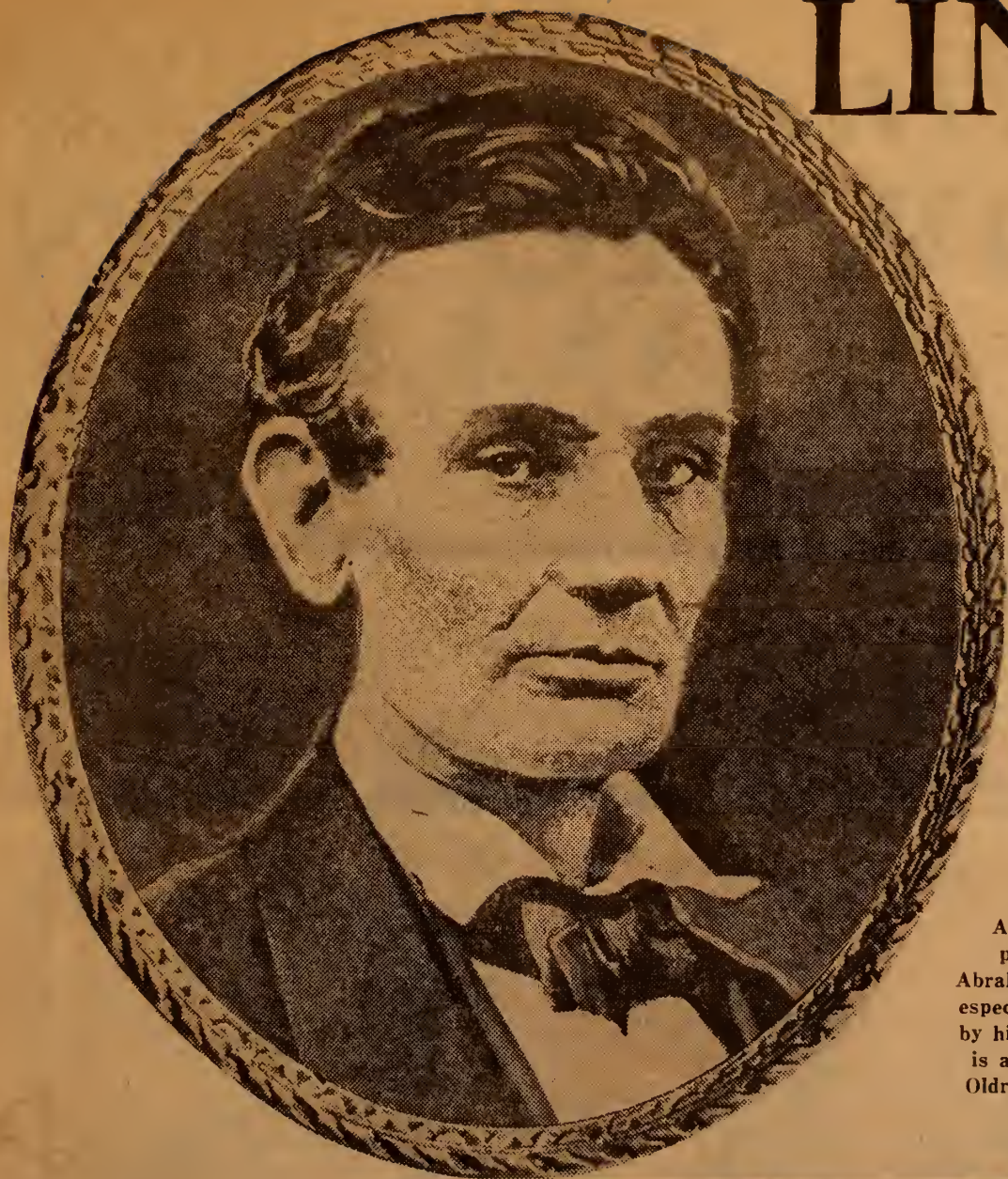


A very rare portrait of Abraham Lincoln, especially favored by his wife, which is a part of the Oldroyd collection

By Kathleen Read

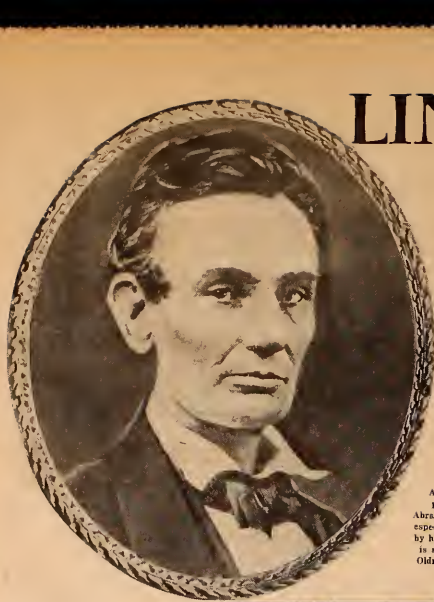
EVERY boy is a hero-worshiper, but it is doubtful if many men could be found who have devoted their entire lives to a single hero and one they had never laid eyes upon. Such is the case of 89-year-old Captain Osborn H. Oldroyd, who recently turned over to the Government the fruits of his hero worship—his famous Lincoln collection.

How did his young feet set out upon a path that led almost to the grave? What beacon led him on and on through the long years, causing him to tramp weary miles, make countless sacrifices, lay aside thoughts of a career and fortune? What is the story behind his superb collection?

With these questions in mind, the writer's steps turned to the house on 10th street, in Washington, where Lincoln breathed his last and which now houses the collection. The gentle old collector extended a cordial welcome to the visitor and seemed happy to talk upon the subject which has occupied his

LINCOLN'S *Most Ardent* Hero-Worshipper

Captain Osborn H. Oldroyd's Collection of Most Notable Lincolniana Inspired by Devotion to Great Man Whom He Loved but Never Met!



A very rare portrait of Abraham Lincoln, especially favored by his wife, which is a part of the Oldroyd collection

When Abraham Lincoln came to Washington for his inauguration he carried the old gray shawl which Captain Oldroyd now prizes as one of the choicest objects in his collection

By Kathleen Read

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As one listens to a recital covering those years, the $50,000 that the Government paid for the collection appears a paltry sum indeed. Yet one is impressed that Osborn Oldroyd's lifetime labor was fired by love alone, upon which no price can be set.

Glancing at the walls and floor space, literally covered with Lincolniana, the question burst forth: "And you never even knew Abraham Lincoln?" Slowly the collector shook his white head, while in his eyes flamed the light of worship.

"Yes, I knew him well, better, perhaps, than many, but I never saw him. Strange thing how I was cheated out of that desire of my heart. When I was serving in the Union Army, near the close of the war, my regiment was in Washington and, as we stood on Pennsylvania avenue, some one called out as a carriage approached us: 'There he is! That's Abe Lincoln!' My heart beat fast. A haze came over my eyes. Now I was to see the man who had occupied my thoughts for four years. As the carriage neared and I raised my head to gaze upon my idol, a great truck passed between us and hid him from view. We were ordered away the next day, and it was while we were in Memphis celebrating the close of the war that the news reached me that he was killed."

"Did you start this collection then?" he was asked.

THE old collector gazed out of the window and across the street at the dingy front of the old Ford Theatre, where Lincoln was killed. He did not answer immediately, and when he did it was as one who speaks from the other end of a long vista of time.

"No; my collection was started before Lincoln was President; even before people generally thought him a great man. It was started when I first began to love him, back in 1856, when I was a lad.

"At that time my father had a little jewelry shop in Mount Vernon, O., our home, and in one corner of the room he allowed me to run a little newsstand. It was my custom to receive packages of newspapers, circulars and books from Pittsburgh. One day, in one of the packages, there came a little paper-backed pamphlet containing some speeches of Abraham Lincoln. I had heard a bit of him and opened the book out of curiosity."

Captain Oldroyd's eyes sought a frame above his desk where, enshrined within, is a dingy paper-covered pamphlet. "That was the trail-blazer for all of this," he said, with a sweeping gesture of the hand. "I could not put the book down once I had started to read it. There was something in those simple sentences, ringing with honesty and high purpose, that fired my young imagination. It spread to my heart. When at length, after repeated calls to supper, I laid down the book, Abraham Lincoln was my friend. In my collection I am leaving to young Americans the proof of that enduring love.

"From that time I began to save everything I could get my hands on that pertained to Lincoln. I wrote to the Pittsburgh dealer for other speeches and notices, and later, when he came more before the public eye, I was able to accumulate quite a number of newspaper clippings. Many jeered at him, some praised him—I saved them all.

"When I marched away to war I went up to my little room and carefully laid away my box of Lincolniana in the bureau drawer. All through the exciting days that followed, in camp and on the battlefield, the thought of my humble collection was with me and the determination to add to it when I returned. I was able to pick up a few items during those hectic days of war. His assassination, of course, only added fuel to the flame of my worship."

Here the old collector paused to tell of his marriage and to pay a tribute of appreciation to the woman whose sympathetic understanding made it possible for him to accumulate the collection.

"I felt that I wanted to live close to Lincoln's home," he continued, "where I might gain a sense of intimacy with the man as well as find many valuable relics, so I got a job in Springfield, Ill., and we moved there. Here, in the midst of Lincoln's old stamping ground, I came across relics pertaining to him on every side. But it took money to buy them; mighty little, 'tis true, for they weren't very valuable then, but more than I could spare from my small salary and the growing demands of a family. However, many a ribbon was done without and many a chew of tobacco foregone that some new item might be added to the collection. Then there was always the precaution that must be taken to insure that nothing but genuine articles were gathered. Every time something was offered me I would go to many different sources to verify its history. All collectors have to guard against fakes, for as soon as people know you are a collector an army of fakers appear. For instance, I have had hundreds of canes offered me which were purported to have been used by Lincoln, and only the fact that I long ago ascertained that Lincoln never carried a cane disclosed the hoax."

Captain Osborn H. Oldroyd before part of his famous Lincoln collection, which he recently sold to the United States Government

"What article involved the most sacrifice to obtain?" the gentle old man was asked. "Do you remember?"

"It isn't likely that one would forget what one had to walk fifteen miles in freezing weather to procure and when it took about the last cent in the house to buy it. You see that chair over there—the one by the window? It was a chair that Lincoln used in his office. It couldn't be bought now, and I had trouble enough getting it away from its owner fifty years ago."

THAT Captain Oldroyd sought upon every occasion not only to add to his collection but also to add to his knowledge of Lincoln, the man, is evident from his conversation. There is perhaps no person living so well qualified to tell of the intimate, homy side of the great American as is this hero-worshiper. He rented and lived in the Lincoln homestead in Springfield, where he placed his collection upon exhibit. He tramped hundreds of miles and talked with many persons who had known Lincoln. He not only collected Lincoln relics but Lincoln lore as well. Lincoln, so the story runs, used to walk from New Salem to Springfield, a distance of fifty miles, to borrow law books, which he would read as he walked home. While residing at Springfield, Captain Oldroyd, to determine the accuracy of the legend, walked the route accredited to Lincoln and inquired from farmer folk along the way for historical evidence of his hero having passed their domicile. Around their firesides he gathered many interesting tales of the man who so loved humanity. It was during this period that the collector came into possession of much of the Lincoln furniture—the stove upon which Mrs. Lincoln used to keep hot the meals that the absent-minded lawyer forgot and the cradle in which the Lincoln children were lulled to sleep. On those worn rockers Lincoln's great book often rested as he assumed the role of nurse.

Osborn H. Oldroyd at the age of 12, when he first started the collection of Lincolniana, to which he devoted his life

The old Ford Theatre, in which President Lincoln was assassinated and which may be used to house Captain Oldroyd's collection of Lincoln relics

All of these things and many, many others are parts of the great collection, now safe for all time in the hands of a grateful Government. But there were many lean years for Captain Oldroyd before the collection was finally purchased. Even a life dream must be backed up by something substantial, and back in 1893 Captain Oldroyd began to realize that if his treasures were to be brought to the attention of the Government they must come to the National Capital. He had received many offers for the collection, from the State of Illinois, from Henry Ford and others. But to the collector there was one, and only one, suitable owner for the treasures after they passed from his hands—the United States Government.

He rented the Petersen house in Washington and opened a museum, where many interesting items were added to the collection. Booth's spur, the old Lincoln Bible (Lincoln's father's) in which the 9-year-old Abe had scrawled his name, the great woolen shawl worn by the President upon many occasions and his last bit of handwriting. Each one has a story poignant with interest, and to listen to the recital of the collector's acquisition of them is to relive history. He touched a bit of writing which reads: "No pass is necessary now to authorize any one to go and return from Petersburg and Richmond."

"That, you see," he explained, "was the last thing Lincoln ever wrote. They were ready to go to the theatre, and he kept Mrs. Lincoln waiting while he wrote this for the soldier who requested a pass. It took me an awfully long time to persuade the family of this soldier to part with this paper. They treasured it greatly. But when reverses came they needed the money, and so Lincoln's last words, written at 7 o'clock on April 14, 1865, came into my possession.

"I obtained the woolen shawl through Mrs. Fowler, of Chicago, to whom Mrs. Lincoln had given the shawl after Lincoln's death. She visited my collection here and mentioned that she had the shawl. I was beside myself to get it, but she steadfastly refused to part with it. However, she promised that she would will it to me. Years after, in 1920, her daughter walked into the room and handed me the shawl.

"THE Lincoln family Bible was purchased by a Washingtonian and presented to me. He bought it for $125. It would bring thousands today. The old Bible was on exhibit at the World's Fair and has had a rather precarious existence generally since it left the Lincoln family.

"I obtained Booth's spur on a trip I took which covered the route taken by Booth after the assassination. At the home of Dr. Mudd, who gave medical treatment to Booth, I learned that a man living not far away possessed one of the spurs which he had cut from Booth's injured foot. I found the man and, after some dickering, purchased the spur for $50."

There are about 5000 articles in all, with a library of 1000 volumes, containing a copy of every book that was ever written about Abraham Lincoln. Here, too, are autograph letters, pictures and papers of his early life, badges and caricatures of the 1860 campaign, sheet music and funeral sermons, eulogies and addresses, busts, masks, medallions and medals. And, most intimate of all, furniture and articles of clothing from the Lincoln home. Over in one corner is suspended a fence rail. It was taken down from the rail fence which "Abe" helped to build in Illinois and which gave him the famous nickname of "Rail-Splitter."

This little house on 10th street really cannot accommodate the Oldroyd Lincoln collection so as to display it to advantage, and the Government is now making plans for a permanent home for it. The old Ford Theatre across the way, converted into a museum, has been mentioned as a suitable location. And it is interesting to recall in this connection that Representative Rathbone, of Illinois, lately deceased, whose father was in the Lincoln box the night Booth shot him, sponsored this movement—as yet only a movement—before the Seventieth Congress.

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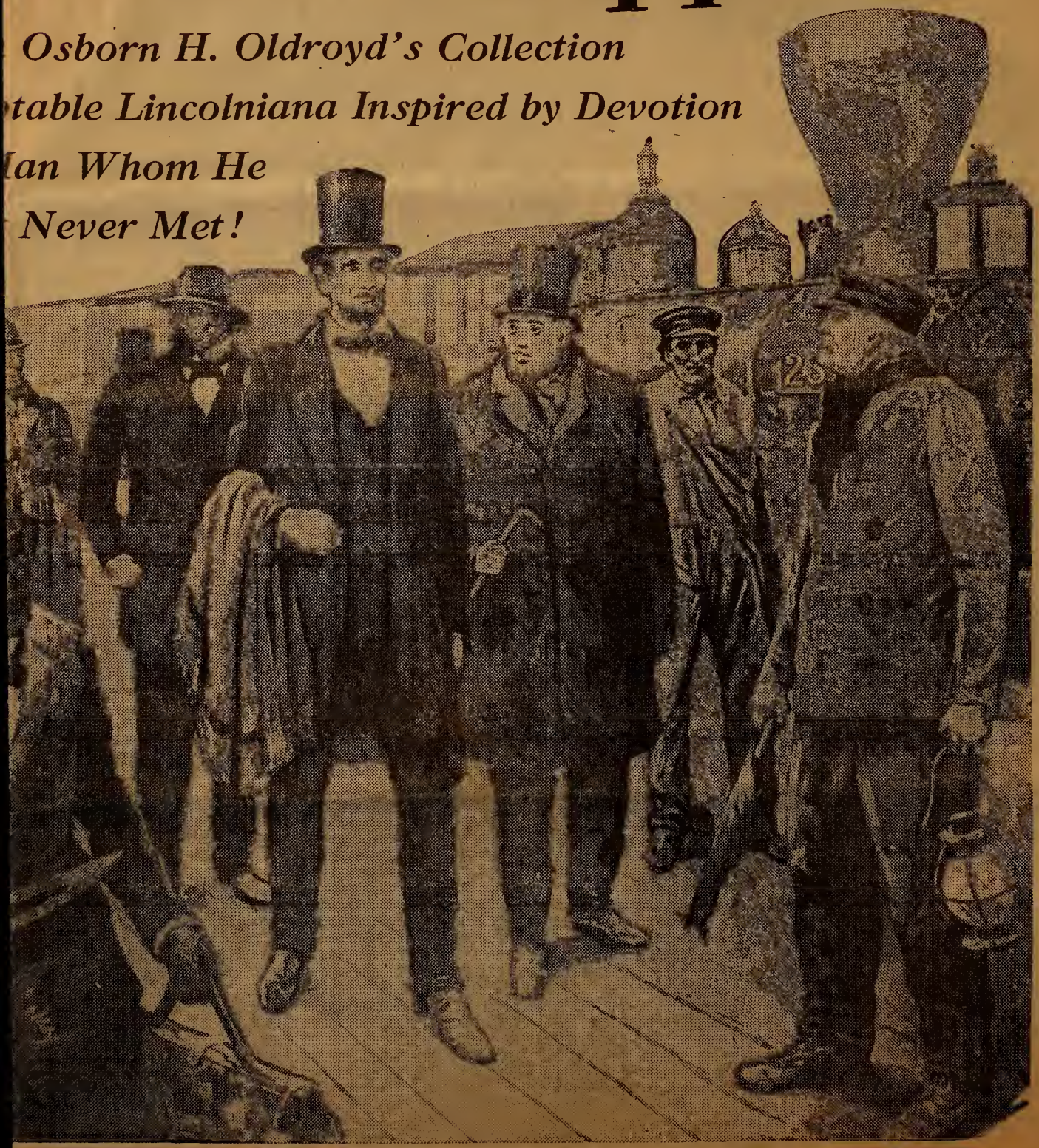
LN'S *Most Ardent*
ro-Worshipper

Osborn H. Oldroyd's Collection
table Lincolniana Inspired by Devotion
an Whom He
Never Met!



When Abraham Lincoln came to Washington for his inauguration he carried the old gray shawl which

Ford Theatre

LINCOLN MUSEUM PLAN GAINS FAVOR

House Committee Agrees to Report Favorably on Ford Theater Proposal.

W. D. C. Star 5-27-30

The House District committee yesterday agreed to report favorably the bill which would establish a Lincoln Museum in the old Ford Theater, on Tenth street, where President Lincoln was assassinated.

The committee also will report favorably the bill to authorize the Commissioners to permit authorities in the surrounding counties to use the present municipal incinerators.

The museum bill, introduced by Representative Beck of Pennsylvania, authorizes appropriation of $100,000 for the alteration and repair of the old theater building as a repository for Lincoliana and other articles of the Civil War, specific mention being made of the Oldroyd collection of Lincoln relics, now owned by the Government. Suitable rooms would be provided in the theater building for the official use of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, the G. A. R., the Sons of Veterans and other Civil War patriotic bodies. Responsibility for care and maintenance of the building would be vested in the director of public buildings and public parks.

The incinerator bill, introduced by Representative Zihlman of Maryland, would authorize the District Commissioners to enter into an agreement with authorities adjacent to the District of Columbia for disposal of combustible material in the incinerators built by the District. The agreements would stipulate quantities permitted to be disposed of and prices to be charged, in the discretion of the Commissioners.

1930-31?

Lincoln Mementos to Be Safeguarded

WASHINGTON, March 24 (AP)—New floors, new doors, new windows will be installed this summer in old Ford Theater to make that now empty monument to Lincoln's martyrdom a museum of happier Lincolniana.

The cradle in which his children were rocked, his wife's cook stove, and his own law office desk and chair are among 4000 items which will be moved across Twelfth Street.

This collection, made by Col. Osborn H. Oldroyd, and purchased by Congress for $50,000, now fills to overflowing the humble and far from fireproof house where Lincoln spoke his last words.

Various bills have provided for some restoration scheme for these two historic properties, but none has been enacted. Guides in a large and empty theater shell and in a dingy crowded cottage have continued to recite the dramatic story of the shooting of Lincoln to 25,000 visitors annually.

But Ulysses S. Grant 3d, Director of Public Buildings, is going to change all that. Next fall the guides will show visitors into a freshly painted exhibit room, containing all the relics of the last drama in Lincoln's life. Colonel Grant has a personal interest in those Lincoln relics, as has Lewis G. Reynolds, their 73-year-old custodian, who once sat on Lincoln's knee.

Colonel Grant's plan is to make use of the theater for Lincoln mementoes, more artistically displayed in the larger and safer brick building, and to furnish the cottage in keeping with the Civil War period.

Ford Theatre

Feb. 8-1931 N.Y. City Times

As Part of Radio's Tribute to Abraham Lincoln, Lewis G. Reynolds, Custodian of the Lincoln Museum, Washington, D. C., Will Take the Nation's Listeners on a Verbal Tour of the Museum on Thursday at 5 o'Clock Over the WABC Network.

SINCE THE CIVIL WAR DAYS

Radio Predicted in the '60s—Today the President Has Nation-Wide Broadcasting Facilities Available—Programs to Honor Lincoln

WHEN Abraham Lincoln was in the ~~White House, Pro~~fessor James Clerk Maxwell of the University of Edinburgh outlined theoretically and predicted the ether waves as used in radio today. It was some years later that Heinrich Hertz proved Maxwell's theory to be correct, and a number of years passed before Marconi signaled by wireless across his father's estate in Italy. Few realized then that some day the President of the United States would speak into a microphone and have his words heard around the world, or that Lincoln's Birthday would be the theme of many broadcasts, reaching millions of homes.

Lincoln's Gettysburg speech was heard by a few hundred gathered at the famous battlefield on Nov. 19, 1863. Print recorded his words for future generations. Radio would have given it wings to carry it off into the emptiness of space to be lost forever. On the radio it would be heard and gone as quickly as spoken, in the twinkle of an eye, unless some ingenious persons made an electrical transcription of it or recorded it on a steel wire as is now done. But in the Civil War days there was no radio broadcasting. There was no electrical recording. It was print that recorded the historic utterances.

[1931]

When Wilson Broadcast.

Presidents came and went after Lincoln before wireless gained recognition. Theodore Roosevelt sent wireless messages, as did those who followed him into the White House. But President Wilson was the first to have his voice carried by radio broadcasting. He actuated a microphone for the first time at sea on board the steamship George Washington when his 1919 Memorial Day address to the crew was sent into space from the aerial wires suspended between the ship's masts. Mr. Wilson was returning from the peace conference. The words were not clear. Fading bothered. It was shortly after noon, so the advantages of night reception were lacking. The ship was rolling and to that was attributed the choppy reception of the waves at Otter Cliffs, Bar Harbor, Me.

Several times, later President Wilson utilized the facilities of the then infant radio network comprised of two or three stations. One of his famous broadcasts was an Armistice Day message to the American people after he had left the White House.

President Harding was the first Chief Executive to use radio facilities to carry matters of national importance to his countrymen. On the trip into the West that ended in his death at San Francisco he used the microphone when he spoke at St. Louis and again at Vancouver. The St. Louis speech was brought to New York by telephone line for local broadcasting and it was heralded as a remarkable achievement. It revealed the possibilities in network broadcasting.

President Coolidge found nationwide broadcasting facilities at his disposal and he used the radio frequently. Practically all of his public addresses were on the air, and he participated in a number of special radio programs.

President Hoover in 1930 used radio twenty-seven times, in addresses that are estimated by the broadcasting organizations to have been in range of every home in the United States equipped with a receiving set. And short waves carried his words to lands across the sea.

On Lincoln's Birthday.

This week radio will commemorate the one hundred and twenty-second anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Melodies of the Sixties will echo through space. The Gettysburg address will be read at the microphone. President Hoover, Vice President Curtis and men high in the public life of the nation will be heard offering tribute to Lincoln's memory. Some of the programs will be broadcast from scenes associated with the life and activities of the Civil War President.

The first of these programs, the reading, by Edgar White Burrill of Ida M. Tarbell's "He Knew Lincoln" will be heard on the eve of Lincoln's birthday, Wednesday night at 8:30 o'clock over WJZ. This will mark the tenth successive year that Mr. Burrill has read the monologue to the radio audience.

Drinkwater to Speak.

John Drinkwater, poet and dramatist, will actuate the WABC network, speaking from London in an international broadcast scheduled to be heard here at 12 o'clock noon on Lincoln's birthday. Mr. Drinkwater has made an extensive study of events and people in America in the middle of the last century and is the author of the plays, "Abraham Lincoln" and "Robert E. Lee."

Distinguished speakers will broadcast in tribute to Lincoln's memory in a program from the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, sponsored by the Lincoln Memorial University. Among those scheduled to speak during this program beginning at 1:30 o'clock over WEAF's network are: Vice President Curtis, Secretary of the Interior Ray Lyman Wilbur, Secretary of Labor William N. Doak, Ambassador Friedrich W. von Prittwitz und Gaffron of Germany, Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines and others.

Alfred G. Penny, who has made a study of the life and works of the martyred President, will speak over WJZ's network at 3:15 P. M. His subject is announced as "Lincoln."

Another broadcast appropriate to the day will be a personally conducted tour of the Lincoln Museum in Washington. The museum is established in the house across the street from Ford's Theatre, where the President was carried after the assassination. The major part of the broadcast will originate in the room in which Mr. Lincoln died. Lewis G. Reynolds, custodian of the museum, will conduct the word-picture tour of the historic building, which is exactly as it was when Lincoln was carried there on the night of April 15, 1865. Mr. Reynolds, who was present in the house during the few hours of life remaining to the stricken President, will describe the famous collection of Lincoliana exhibited in the building. The broadcast will be heard at 5 o'clock Thursday afternoon over WABC's network.

Hoover on Two Networks.

President Hoover's Lincoln's Birthday address will be broadcast throughout the nation at 10 o'clock Thursday night over the WJZ and WABC networks. Microphones installed in the Lincoln study, where the Great Emancipator did most of his executive work during the Civil War, will pick up Mr. Hoover's words and carry them to listeners.

Lincoln's birthday will be celebrated in advance by radio-equipped schools tuned to WLW at 2:30 P. M. on Monday for the program of the Ohio School of the Air.

Dr. John Wesley Hill, president of Lincoln Memorial University, will talk on the life of Lincoln. It is estimated that more than 350,000 school children will be listening. The university at Harrogate, Tenn., was founded in response to an appeal from Abraham Lincoln that the underprivileged children of the southern mountains might be given the opportunity of an education. It is located at the point where Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia boundaries meet.

Ford's Theater Joins Long List Of Lincoln Shrines in America

More Than 5000 Exhibits Mark Various Episodes of His Career in Place Where He Met His Martyrdom—Man in Charge Knew Him

1937

Special from The Christian Science Monitor Bureau

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—Ford's Theater on Tenth Street, where Abraham Lincoln found diversion from the cares of the Civil War, was thrown open today as a public repository of Lincoln memorabilia. Outwardly, it stands to the last detail as it was during those years it graced what then was Washington's residential district. Inwardly, nothing remains of the playhouse of that day.

One can, however, picture the theater that night with Lincoln in an upper box to the left of the stage as it faces the audience, and John Wilkes Booth, the assassin creeping along the narrow passage leading to the curtain behind the President.

A few years ago the theater was partially destroyed when the roof fell in, ruining the interior. Time passed, then a Congressional appropriation of $100,000 saw the sadly tumbled-down structure straighten up to become once more a picture of bright red bricks and neatly painted, square-paned windows.

Today, under the supervision of Lieut.-Col. U. S. Grant 3d, head of the department of public buildings and public works, this small playhouse was added to the many Lincoln shrines in the United States. More than 5000 exhibits mark different episodes of his career.

In cases running parallel from the entrance to the rear of the room, and flanked with white posts, and statuettes of the President, are scores of Lincoln portraits, dating from the early days of his youth to his last days in the White House.

One case, tucked almost out of sight in a far corner, holds a check signed by Lincoln, dated Aug. 11, 1863, drawn on Riggs & Co., now the Riggs National Bank, Washington, and made payable to "a colored man with one leg." Another case is filled with "shin plasters," Civil War scrip in denominations of from 3 to 50 cents.

Another case offers a Civil War bond, dated June 15, 1864 and payable June 30, 1881. It drew interest at 5 per cent. Near by stands a case with medals, struck during Lincoln's two Administrations, and opposite this display is the marriage certificate of Lincoln and Mary Todd, Nov. 4, 1842; auction notices of the sale of slaves May 27, 1857, at Winchester, Virginia; a Bible presented to Lincoln by his mother, and a well-thumbed copy of Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress."

The gray, plaid shawl he wore in Washington; the shaving mug and the inkstand he had at the White House; and the white muffler he had for dress occasions, all are there . . . just as if they might be taken from the case and put to use. There's the writing desk he had at Springfield, Ill.; a deep, easily rocked cradle with high sides; an old wood-burning stove bought just before he was elected President, though not for the White House; a rail that he split when a boy in Illinois; and various less bulky things all connected in some way with his career.

The majority of the relics now housed in the Ford Theater Museum came from the Osborne H. Oldroyd Collection, and were originally assembled in the Lincoln home, Springfield, Ill. The Memorial Association of the District of Columbia found them, and invited Mr. Oldroyd to bring them to Washington. The collection eventually cost the Government $50,000. It was set up in the Petersen house across the street in charge of Mr. Lewis Gardner Reynolds, the present curator.

Mr. Reynolds is known as the last surviving individual who, as a small child, was held upon Mr. Lincoln's lap and his love for the martyred President ties him in close bond to the relics he so faithfully guards, and never tires of describing.

Ford Theatre

Clev. Plain Dealer

TWO

FORD'S THEATER PUBLIC SHRINE OF LINCOLN RELICS

2/13/32

Famous Oldroyd Collection is Placed Therein Under Government Control.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—The old Ford's theater, where John Wilkes Booth's bullet robbed a troubled nation of its leader, today became a public shrine to house the famous Oldroyed collection of 3,000 Lincoln relics.

The famous red brick building has not served as a showhouse since "our American cousin" was halted with a revolver shot Good Friday night, April 14, 1865. When its rickety interior collapsed in 1893 the government refused to restore it as a theater, saying it would serve more as a monument.

But though it has been rebuilt inside to resemble a modern office building, the Oldroyd collection probably creates a greater dramatic affect than was ever produced on its gaslit boards. For every detail of Lincoln's life is graphically portrayed in it from the family cradle to the soldering iron used to seal his body in its coffin.

Bills advertising slave sales decorate the walls. Books from Lincoln's law offices and the license given Berry and Lincoln to sell spirits in their general store, at prices restricted to 25 and 50 cents a pint adorn the shelves. Lincoln earned the title "Honest Abe" when he settled the defunct firm's debts, an 18-year task.

There are prints of songs with the wartime tilt of 1860, gayly colored postcards with verses about "The Girl I Left Behind Me" and "A Soldier's Farewell." Pictures of Lincoln and Grant, Lincoln and Seward, his letter to the girl for whose childish amusement he said he grew the famous chin whiskers, Booth's pistol and the handbills announcing the reward for Booth's capture, all are there.

Even the manuscript of the play in which Miss Laura Keen was making her farewell appearance is there and marked at the last lines spoken. They were directed at Mrs. H. Muzzer as Mrs. Mountschessington, by Harry Hawk as Asa Trenchard.

"You sockdologizing old mantrap!" Hawks had just said to the lady when Booth leaped to the stage and ran backstage to jump to his waiting horse beneath.

As a next step in retaining the memory of Lincoln, the government plans to restore the simple red brick house across the street, into which the dying Lincoln was carried, to its condition of the fateful night.

LINCOLN RELICS MAY BE DISPLAYED FREE

Congress Moves to Eliminate Admission Charge.

NATIONAL MUSEUM PLAN

The Indianapolis News Bureau,
33 Wyatt Building.

WASHINGTON, February 23.—The public may yet be permitted to view the Oldroyd Lincoln collection, one of the most interesting in Washington, without paying a fee. At the last congressional session an appropriation [illegible] $50,000 for purchase of [illegible] was approved, but no [illegible] its maintenance was [illegible] house in which the col- [illegible]now displayed, and in which [illegible]n Lincoln died, is directly [illegible] the street from the old Ford [illegible], from which the civil war president was taken after having been fatally shot. An admission charge of 25 cents is still made to view the collection. Both buildings are government-owned, the theater being used by a division of the adjutant-general's office.

Under the provisions of a bill introduced by Representative Henry R. Rathbone (Rep., Ill.), the collection would be moved to the old theater building after repairs and improvements had been made to put it into proper shape to be used as a national museum for display of the famous relics. The bill calls for an appropriation of $100,000 or as much thereof as may be necessary for reconditioning the building as a museum. This bill has been reported favorably by the committee on library.

Would Restore Deathhouse.

A second bill, now before the committee, would restore the house in which Lincoln died to its former appearance, repair the furniture and make provision for its upkeep. Among the interesting relics now displayed in this house, connected with or relating to the martyred President, are the family Bible in which Lincoln wrote his name in boyhood, a log from the old Lincoln home, a stand made from logs in the house in which Lincoln lived from 1832 to 1836, a rail split by Lincoln and John Hanks in 1830, a discharge given one of his men by Captain A. Lincoln, Black Hawk war, 1832; a picture of Springfield house, a flag carried in the Lincoln and Hamlin campaign, an office chair in which Lincoln sat when he drafted his first cabinet, his farewell address to neighbors, articles of furniture from the Springfield home, autographed letters, the chair he occupied in the theater and the hat worn on the night of April 14, 1865.

[1940]

Match Ignites Clothing, L. G. Reynolds Burned

Richmond, Ind., Aug. 20.—(Special) —Lewis G. Reynolds, former custodian of the house in which Lincoln died in Washington and founder of Carnation day commemorating date of President McKinley's death, was burned seriously today when his clothing caught fire as he struck a match while seated in an invalid's chair at his home here. He has been ill several years.

Reynolds was taken to Reid Memorial Hospital.

Former Lincoln Museum Curator Dies at Richmond

Richmond, Ind., Aug. 21.—(Special)—Lewis G. Reynolds, 82 years old, former curator of the government museum in the house where Abraham Lincoln died in Washington and founder of Carnation day as a tribute to President McKinley, died in Reid Memorial Hospital today of burns suffered when the tip of a lighted match ignited his clothing in the absence of his nurse yesterday.

Reynolds was a native of Ohio and as a boy sat in Lincoln's lap when his father, a treasury official in the Civil War period, was conferring wit hthe President. He was curator of the Lincoln Museum from 1927 to 1936, when he suffered a stroke and returned to Richmond. Survivors are his widow and two daughters.

Palladium-Item & Sun-Telegram
Richmond, Indiana
EGRAM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1940

Reynolds Dies of Burns; Founder of Carnation Day

Lewis G. Reynolds, who as a small boy sat on Abraham Lincoln's lap, and who in later life became curator of the government's museum in the house where Lincoln's death occurred, died in Reid Memorial hospital Wednesday morning of accidental burns received Tuesday afternoon at his home, 39 North Tenth street. He was 82 years old. He is nationally known as the founder of Carnation day as a tribute to President McKinley.

Mr. Reynolds, a former Dayton, Ohio, manufacturer, first came to Richmond, about 1910 and during the World war was prominent in organizing the community in the various Liberty Loan drives.

He was called to Washington in September of 1927 by Col. U. S. Grant, III to take charge of the museum the government purchased from Colonel Oldroyd, at 516 Tenth street, Northwest. This house, across from the Ford theater, where Lincoln was shot, was the house in which Lincoln died. The government purchased the house and collection from Colonel Oldroyd, who established it, after the colonel's ill health made it impossible for him to continue its operation.

Mr. Reynolds continued in charge of the Lincoln memorial collection until 1936, when he retired after suffering a stroke. He returned to Richmond but was unable to participate in any activity because of continued ill health.

He was born at Bellefontaine, Ohio, on June 28, 1858, and at an early age went to Washington, D. C., with his father and mother, his father, Capt. Lucius Delmar Reynolds holding a post in the Treasury department.

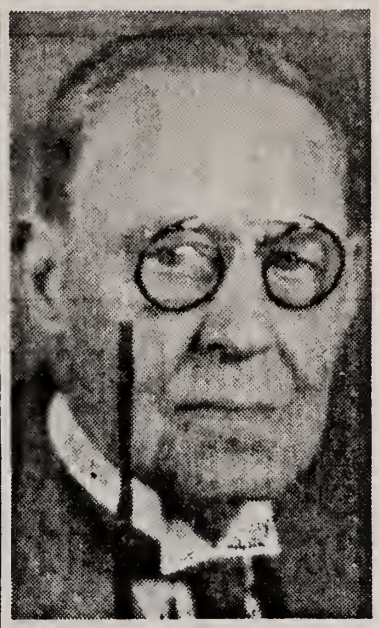
As a treasury official, Captain Reynolds was called to Lincoln's office and took his son with him. As the two men discussed the matter for which the conference had been called the young boy, who was then not over five years old, sat on the president's lap.

Returned to Dayton

After the Civil war was over, Captain Reynolds returned to Dayton, Ohio, starting the Reynolds & Reynolds Co., manufacturing notebooks and other school supplies. Mr. Reynolds' first job was with this company.

Later he started his own company, manufacturing paper cartons and served for 10 years as a member of the school board of the Ohio city.

He married Miss Jeanette Lytle, of Dayton in 1886. She died in 1903 and in 1909 he married Mrs. Mary V. Williams of Richmond, removing to Richmond at that time to live.



Lewis G. Reynolds

Vitally interested in national affairs, Mr. Reynolds came to know many American leaders, including President McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Myron T. Herrick, and Mark Hannah, the Ohio senator.

On Sept. 14, 1902, the first anniversary following the tragic death of President McKinley, Mr. Reynolds was in Buffalo, on business.

When he arrived there he found that the mayor of Buffalo had declared the day a legal holiday and had asked business houses and citizens to co-operate by displaying some insignia of mourning.

Mr. Reynolds, without thinking at the time that he was doing something that would become a national custom, purchased a pink carnation which he placed in the button hole of his coat after tying a small piece of black ribbon on it.

As he went through Buffalo he explained to questioners the reason for the flower and the black ribbon. Many of those who questioned him followed his example.

Planned Memorial

On his return to Ohio he explained to Senator Hannah what he had done in Buffalo. Later Mr. Reynolds met in Cleveland with Senator Hannah and Myron T. Herrick, later ambassador to France, where plans were made to celebrate Jan. 29, the anniversary of McKinley's birth, as "Carnation day."

Coroner Russell Hiatt has started an investigation of the death of Mr. Reynolds

Police and firemen who were called to the home late Tuesday afternoon reported that he probably had set his clothing on fire by accident while attempting to light a pipe.

Mrs. Anna Farlowe, a nurse, who cared for Mr. Reynolds, an invalid, had left him only a few minutes before the accident, going to the kitchen to prepare his evening meal.

Mrs. Reynolds, who heard his screams for help, rushed to his aid, and with Mrs. Farlowe, succeeded in putting out the fire with blankets. Mrs. Farlowe was treated at the hospital for severe burns on her hands.

Mr. Reynolds was removed to the hospital in the police ambulance.

His death was the fourth in Wayne county this year resulting from accidental burns.

Mr. Reynolds is survived by his widow, Mary V. Reynolds; two daughters, Mrs. Horace Huffman, Dayton, Ohio, Mrs. John W. Clements, of Richmond; a stepson, Edward B. Williams, of Richmond; 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

August 15, 1944

Mr. Carl W. Schaefer
Schaefer and Schaefer
1235 Leader Building
Cleveland 14, Ohio

Dear Mr. Schaefer:

In reply to your letter relative to the purchase of the Oldroyd collection.

One of the first places to which I went in Washington after I became secretary to Senator Willis was the Peterson House and I was there a good many times during the following seven years. In 1922 when the Republican Glee Club of Columbus, the oldest musical organization of the kind in the country, went to Washington to sing at one of the lawn parties which Mrs. Harding gave for soldiers at Walter Reed Hospital, I took the Glee Club to this house and they sang several appropriate songs in the room in which President Lincoln died. With tears streaming down his face, Colonel Oldroyd said to me that he considered this one of the highest honors that had been paid to the house during his residence there.

Early in 1926 Colonel Oldroyd came to see me one day and discussed with me the legislation which I already knew considerable about relative to the purchase of this collection by the Government. Congressman Rathbone of Illinois, son of the two people who were with the Lincolns in Ford's Theatre on the night of the assassination, had sponsored the legislation for the purchase of this collection in the House. Colonel Oldroyd said to me that the Congressman had accumulated some enemies who took great pleasure in blocking any legislation that he endeavored to get through and that therefore he had little hope of the Congressman being successful this time. He related to me the fact that he was getting old; that he had everything he had in this collection; that he thought it necessary to make provision for Mrs. Oldroyd and that the only way this could be done was by the sale of the collection. He was very emphatic in his expression that he wished the collection to remain in Washington. Henry Ford had offered him fifty thousand dollars with the understanding that the collection was to go to Dearborn Village. Colonel Oldroyd said that if the legislation could not be passed in the Session of 1926 he would feel compelled to accept Mr. Ford's offer, much as he did not want the collection to leave Washington. He asked me if I thought Senator Willis, as a brother son of Ohio, would be interested in helping to put this legislation through. I told him that I thought the Senator would be and when I spoke to him about it Senator Willis was very glad to help.

Mr. Carl W. Schaefer 8-15-44

Congressman Rathbone had already introduced his resolution for purchase in the House. In "Lincoln Lore" No. 745, you will find some bills listed for the purchase of the Oldroyd collection. I think this list is incomplete. My memory is that there were other bills besides those which were listed in this admittedly incomplete list. Senator Willis, before he introduced his bill in the Senate, followed a custom which he had of endeavoring to smooth out difficulties with opposing members before the bill went in. The Senator laid great stress on his personal relationships with other Senators. Often he sat for hours listening to speeches in which he did not believe at all and which he could have read much more quickly, just to cultivate a personal relationship with the speaking Senators. As a result, he was able to get many incidental things done which Senators who did not have this patience and habit were unable to do. This fact helped materially with the Oldroyd Bill. As a consequence, the Senator had no difficulty in getting it passed in the Senate and he was able to help materially in getting it through the House. My remembrance is that it was the House Bill which became a law, but if you will go into Ford's Theatre today you will find in a frame a copy of each of the bills and, I think, with them the photograph of Senator Willis. Anyhow, the credit for the purchase of the collection is largely due to Senator Willis. I will never forget the visit of Colonel Oldroyd to our offices after President Coolidge had signed the bill. His expressions to the Senator and to myself are a very pleasant memory. To each of us he gave an autographed copy of one of his more valuable books. I am certain that no incidental act which either the Senator or I were able to do while we were in Washington gave us more pleasure then or afterward than this one.

I enclose a copy of one of the leaflets which Colonel Oldroyd gave to his visitors. Somewhere I have a copy of the now rare admission tickets which he issued to the Peterson House. If you should care to reproduce this with the article, I should be glad to look it up and loan it to you. Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of "The History of the Lincoln Museum" by James T. Matthews, Jr., in which you will find a great deal of additional information. I purchased this the last time I was in Ford's Theatre.

Mr. Matthews, in quoting the report on Senate 957, says that Mr. Ford offered fifty thousand dollars for the Oldroyd collection. My remembrance is that Colonel Oldroyd told me before the legislation was passed that Mr. Ford had raised this offer either to seventy-five or one hundred thousand dollars, but Colonel Oldroyd was satisfied to accept fifty thousand dollars from the Government with the understanding that the collection would remain in Washington. I recall very distinctly, also, that one day when I went down to see something about this legislation Colonel Oldroyd told me that on the preceding Sunday Mrs. Edsel Ford came with one of the finest automobiles then made in America, worth five thousand dollars or more, and took the Colonel and Mrs. Oldroyd for a ride. On their return, Mrs. Ford had said to him, "Colonel, this automobile is yours if you accept Father's offer." I have always had the impression that Colonel Oldroyd sacrificed many thousands of dollars, which he might have had, in order that his ambition that the collection remain in Washington might be gratified.

Mr. Carl W. Schaefer 8-15-44

In the book of Mr. Matthews" you will note a picture of the cradle used for Lincoln's children. One day when I was in the house with my children Colonel Oldroyd picked up my younger daughter, who was then a very small tot, laid her in this cradle and rocked it. Then he picked her up and said, "Now you have rocked in the cradle in which some of the most famous children in the world were rocked." All of my children and I were permitted to sit in the office chair used by Lincoln in his law office in Springfield, which is pictured on the next page. The booklets which I send will give you the information you want, I think, with regard to the contents of this collection. Please return these to me when you have finished with them. If there is any further information concerning this matter which I can give you, I shall be glad to do so.

I have known, of course, for a long time, of your splendid Lincoln collection and have hoped that I might have a chance to visit with you some time. It is seldom, however, that I get to Cleveland. I am glad you are writing this article for Dr. McClelland, whom I know very well.

Cordially yours,

C. A. Jones

CAJ:db

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS
WASHINGTON

The Lincoln Museum,
511 10th St., N. W.,
Washington, 4, D. C.

Dear Dr. Warren:

For some time the concession stand here at the Lincoln Museum has been selling a reprint of the New York Herald of April 15, 1865. In an effort to secure a more authentic copy, we had the original of the 10 A.M. issue at the Library of Congress photostated. However, on page 8, we notice that the date at the top of the page is April 14 although the date of April 15 appears elsewhere on the page. I wondered if that were true of all of the original copies of this edition. I am acquainted with your articles on the New York Herald in the February, 1948 issue of Hobbies Magazine and in Lincoln Lore No. 159, but did not see any reference to this incorrect dating there.

No doubt you saw the press notices on the acquisition of the Lincoln boots by the Lincoln Museum from Miss Ruth Hatch of Lynn, Mass., on April 30, 1947. Miss Hatch is a granddaughter of Justin H. Hatch who obtained the boots from Wm. C. Clark, occupant of the room in which Lincoln died in the Petersen House. According to the information which we have the boots are size 10. In his article in the Life Magazine of Feb. 10, 1947, Stefan Lorant states that Lincoln wore size 14 boots. That is a pretty large size. The famous negro pitcher, "Satchel" Paige, now with the Cleveland Indians secured his name from the large sized shoes he wears which are also size 14. So far I have been unable to find any other statements concerning the size of Lincoln's boots and wondered if you have any such information.

Perhaps you also saw in the newspapers on October 10, 1947, or shortly after, that the voucher for the "Lincoln " bed in the White House had been discovered in the General Accounting Office. For the past two years I have been working on a catalog and historical file on the furnishings of the White House. This has necessitated going through all White House vouchers from the earliest to the present, including those of the Lincoln period, and also all correspondence of the Commissioners, Officers in charge of Public Buildings and Grounds and our own office since 1933. I found the voucher on the bed and took it to the Chief Usher of the White House along with other vouchers and documents in the Lincoln period which I had photostated. The next day President Truman pulled out the voucher and commented on the bed in his press conference. The newspapers made it read as if the President himself had found the receipt. Harry E. Pratt and Ernest E. East in their article "Mrs Lincoln Refurbishes the White House" in the Lincoln Herald, Feb., 1945, list some of the Lincoln purchases and examined the same vouchers but missed the one on the Lincoln bed. Several beds (rosewood) were purchased from John Alexander, Wash., D. C., in the Lincoln period but the voucher I located was the only one with a canopy and I think beyond doubt is the present bed in the White House, although the canop in no longer used. I wrote an article on the White House and its furnishings of 110 pages and Mrs. Truman was given the first copy. It is a pretty big project and will take several years to complete.

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

I would still like to have the photostats of the first Lincoln school, etc. that I wrote to you about some time ago if you get around to them.

Sincerely, Stanley W. McClure.

July 16, 1948

Mr. Stanley W. McClure
The Lincoln Museum
511 - 10th Street, N. W.
Washington, 4, D. C.

My dear Mr. McClure:

I was happy indeed to hear from you and learn that you are planning to make your facsimiles of the New York Herald for April 15 more authentic.

We have never been able to acquire an original copy of the 10:00 A. M. edition though I have heard that it didn't carry the date, April 14.

I am taking the liberty of enclosing three facsimiles of other editions which you may accept with our compliments.

I would like very much to have a copy of the 10:00 A.M. edition which you have had photostated or a photostatic copy. One other issue, the regular 2:00 A.M. edition, has also escaped us.

Our number of facsimiles alone now reach 57. With respect to Lincoln's boots, we have the size very clearly indicated that his left foot was 12 inches long and his right foot 12½ inches long. I have always understood that he wore a size 14, two sizes larger the manufacturers made.

I am also taking this opportunity to enclose other items which I should have sent you long ago. Thanks for the article also about the Lincoln bed which is very interesting.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:CM
L.A.Warren

Ford's Theatre - Museum

NPCA

4 May 1982

Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr; Editor; Director
Lincoln Lore
Louis A. Warren Center for Lincoln Studies
1300 South Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Dr. Neely:

The National Parks & Conservation Association (NPCA) is writing to inform you of a critical situation regarding the Elyroyd Lincoln Collection managed by the National Capital Region of the National Park Service. Because of your affiliation, we are seeking your cooperation and support in informing the Congress of your concern over the current state of that collection and the need for immediate corrective action.

A major concern of NPCA, a private, non-profit organization, is the protection of our national parks and the cultural and natural resources associated with those parks; its objective is to ensure that these resources are managed in such a manner that they can be handed down, intact, to future generations.

As you are probably already aware, the 6,000-piece Lincoln collection which is under the guardianship of the National Park Service, contains objects from Lincoln's campaign years, White House years, and the conspiracy trial, and includes documents, prints, campaign materials, and the Lincoln Library of rare books. This collection constitutes a major resource in the study of a critical period in our nation's history.

Before the Lincoln collection was moved to its current location at Union Station, it was housed at Ford's Theatre. Ironically, it was moved because the environmental conditions and storage facilities at the theatre were inadequate and detrimental to the preservation of the collection. The current conditions at Union Station, however, are much worse, and are resulting in the further deterioration of the collection.

According to a professional librarian's evaluation of the collection completed in late 1978, nearly 1,400 of the approximately 1,750 volumes making up the Lincoln Library need emergency treatment. To date, however, no treatment has taken place, and none is budgeted. The object collection is

National Parks & Conservation Association, 1701 Eighteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009
telephone (202) 265-2717

in a comparable plight. The majority of these artifacts are valuable and essential to the interpretation of Lincoln and his times. Further, museum collections are meant to be studied, to help us learn more about our past. But scholars can not study the Lincoln collection at Union Station because the 73-year-old National Landmark was closed to the public indefinitely in February, 1981, after heavy rains and a leaky roof created the dangerous situation of falling plaster. To prevent additional damage to the collection from the moisture and the falling plaster, the shelves and cabinets containing the items were enclosed completely in black plastic. The combination of poor climate-control in the facility and the plastic coverings is compounding a very bad situation. In the museum world, collections which are not this assessible for even study are said to be in "dead storage." This term takes on special emphasis in the case of collections at Union Station.

A second evaluation of the facility and the collections was done in December, 1981. It reinforces the findings if the earlier appraisal with the following observation:

> The library, the records, the collection sit in a decaying visitor center from which all staff has already been banned, without adequate security. At a time when the Director is calling for a return to core missions, which includes preservation of our collections, we are closing our eyes to the care of one of our major holdings.

The current crucial state of the collections at Union Station developed over many years. The Elyroyd Lincoln Collection, like other cultural and natural collections throughout the National Park System have had to compete in priority for limited preservation and maintenance dollars with the projects that have greater public visibility. The fact that there is no budget specifically allocated for care of collections held by the parks is an indication of the low priority given to adequate preservation of these resources.

During the recent Congressional hearings on the State of the Parks, Kenneth Starr, Director of the Milwaukee Public Museum and immediate past-President of the American Association of Museums, testified on behalf of the museum professionals. Prior to his testimony, he visited the storage facilities at Union Station, and during the hearing stated that "Members of the Committee need go only as far as Union Station here in Washington...to witness the extreme poverty of housing and care that the National Park Service is able to provide for irreplacable historical and cultural materials, including important Lincoln memorabilia." Please

be assured that the National Park Service personnel directly responsible for the collection are distressed by this situation, but as employees, lack the means to express their concern.

If, after reading this letter, you believe as we do that immediate action is warranted, the attached sheet supplies names and addresses of National Park Service officials who have management responsibility for not only the Elyroyd Lincoln Collection, but other valuable collections, including furnishings and ethnological objects now stored at Union Station. Also listed are Congressmen who are considering the 1983 fiscal year budget which we believe should contain funds expressly earmarked for a new collections storage facility or funds to provide for a move into an existing facility. The second enclosure lists several points you may want to include in your letters.

The National Park Service and the Congress need to know how we feel about this kind of abuse to our cultural heritage. If we do not bring this situation to their attention, they have no way of knowing otherwise. We urge you to respond as quickly as possible as the House Appropriations Committee will consider the National Park Service's budget during May. Please do not hesitate to telephone me at (202) 328-6116 if you have futher questions about status of the Union Station collections or about the content of your letters. Finally, I would very much appreciate receiving a copy of any letters that you send. The address for NPCA can be found on the bottom of the first page.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Laura L Beaty

Laura L. Beaty
Administrative Assistant
Historic Heritage

LLB/cam
enclosures

Important points you might convey in your letters:

1. The importance of the collection. Many do not realize that the NPS possesses such a large and significant collection of Lincoln materials, nor do they realize the conditions in which they are stored. Both legislators and the NPS officials need to be aware that they are held accountable for the professional care of these resources.

2. New facilities are essential. Through a recent law, the Department of Transportation now has the responsibility to restore Union Station and return it to a transportation center. (Union Station was formerly managed by the NPS as a National Visitor Center.) Therefore, the collections will have to be moved eventually. We must urge the legislators and the NPS officials that other facilities should be found immediately, preferably by reprogramming 1982 monies; as a second option, the fiscal year 1983 budget now being considered by the Congress must contain funds necessary for a move to a larger, climate-controlled facility. Further, funds should be made available for on-going conservation of the object and library collections. By law, the fiscal year 1983 monies should become available on October 1, 1982, as they do every year.

3. Space needed. The new facility should contain a minimum of 20,000 square feet of space to accomodate those objects and artifacts currently housed at Union Stateion.

* National Park Service

Russell E. Dickenson, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Manus J. Fish, Regional Director
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, D. C. 20242

* House and Senate Appropriations Committees

Honorable Sidney R. Yates, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Interior and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Room 2234 RHOB
Washington, D. C. 20515

Honorable Joseph M. McDade (Ranking Minority Member)
House Appropriations Committee
Interior and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Room 2370 RHOB
Washington, D. C. 20515

Senator James A. McClure, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Interior and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Room 3121 DSOB
Washington, D. C. 20510

Senator Robert C. Byrd (Ranking Minority Member)
Senate Appropriations Committee
Interior and Related Agencies Subcomte.
Room 133 RSOB
Washington, D. C. 20510

House and Senate Authorizing Committees

Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman
Interior and Insular Affairs Committee
Room 235 CHOB
Washington, D. C. 20515

Honorable Manuel Lujan (Ranking Minority Member)
Interior and Insular Affairs Comte.
Room 1323 LHOB
Washington, D. C. 20515

Senator James A. McClure, Chairman
Energy and Natural Resources Comte.
--same address as above--

Senator Henry M. Jackson (Ranking Minority Member)
Energy and Natural Resources Comte.
Room 137 RSOB
Washington, D. C. 20510

* most important in the short run.

Collecting Lincoln: The First Collector

By Daniel Bassuk, Ph.D.

Lincoln collectors should be able to answer these questions:

- Who was the first major collector of Lincoln artifacts?" Have you seen his collection?
- How many books and pamphlets did he write about Lincoln? How many of them do you own?
- What "Lincoln" houses did he live in? Have you visited them?

Perhaps you can identify this famous Lincoln collector by the acrostic that spells his birthplace, OHIO. He's Osborn Hamilton Ingham Oldroyd (1842-1930). He began collecting "Lincolniana" even before Lincoln was elected president, and lived in two of the most significant Lincoln buildings, the only home that Lincoln ever owned and the house where Lincoln died.

In 1883, Oldroyd became the tenant of Lincoln's home in Springfield, Illinois. He lived in it for ten years and converted it into a museum for his Lincoln treasures. Even after Lincoln's son Robert donated this house to the State of Illinois, Oldroyd remained in residence as curator. Finally, in 1893, Oldroyd moved to Washington and transferred his collection to his new residence, the Petersen House, where Lincoln had died. In both homes, Oldroyd used his Lincoln collection as a museum to help pay his rent and earn a living. *(Ralph G. Newman, Preserving Lincoln for the Ages: Collectors, Collections, and Our Sixteenth President, The Sixth McMurtry lecture, Fort Wayne Indiana, 1983, p. 14, and Wayne C. Temple, By Square and Compasses: The Building of Lincoln's Home and Its Saga, the Ashlar Press, Bloomington, Illinois, 1984, Chapter XI, "The Oldroyds.")*

If you have been to Ford's Theatre, where President Lincoln was assassinated, and visited its Lincoln museum, then you have seen some of Oldroyd's famous collection. His was the only Lincoln collection ever purchased by the United States government. Oldroyd's collecting of Lincolnian spanned a period of 70 years. His

Osborn Oldroyd

life's labor, livelihood and love were all linked to Lincoln.

As fate would have it, Oldroyd never saw Abraham Lincoln. While marching through Washington with his Civil War regiment, his view of the Sixteenth President was obstructed and he missed his only opportunity. This misfortune motivated him all the more to collect Lincoln memorabilia. His collection became vast and included Lincoln's family Bible, woolen shawl, some of Lincoln's furniture, a rail split by "The Rail Splitter," and even the spur worn by Lincoln's assassin on the fatal night of April 14, 1865. In addition, Oldroyd accumulated a score of Lincoln's handwritten letters, some of Lincoln's own books, hundreds of biographies of the Sixteenth President, artifacts from both his presidential campaigns, hundreds of funeral sermons, photographs, portraits, engravings, busts, badges, medallions, medals, sheet music

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THE LINCOLNIAN

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and newspapers, all about Lincoln. *(Tarbell, Ida, The Early Life of Abraham Lincoln, New York, McClure, 1895, pp. 237-40.)*

No collection of Lincolniana compared to Oldroyd's. In 1926, the United States government purchased the collection for $50,000 but not without a counter offer from Henry Ford. Interestingly, Henry Riggs Rathbone, the son of Major Henry Rathbone, who had been with Lincoln in the box at Ford's Theatre that fateful night, sponsored the bill for purchase to Congress. The Oldroyd collection was moved to Ford's Theatre two years after Oldroyd's death, when Congress appropriated funds to convert the theatre into a museum. Some of his collection has remained on display since the theatre reopened in 1968.

Olroyd the Author

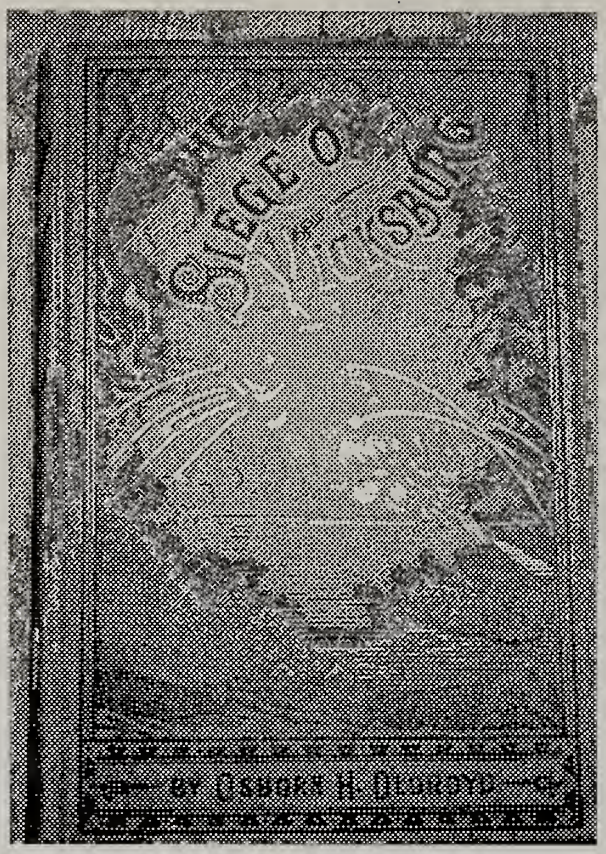
Seven books bear the name of Oldroyd but how many of them did he actually write? Are all seven about Lincoln? Which of them is the scarcest? A brief description of Oldroyd's writings, in chronological order, follows:

1. *The Lincoln Memorial: Album-Immortelles*, 1882 (Monaghan #987), 571 pages. Beginning in 1880, Oldroyd solicited many eminent people to contribute to a work that would uphold Lincoln's fame. To these endorsements, Oldroyd added samples of Lincoln's own speeches and writings.
2. *A Soldier's Story of the Siege of Vicksburg*,1885, illustrated, 200 pages. This is Oldroyd's diary as a Union soldier during the siege of Vicksburg (May 1-July 4, 1863). It includes ten appendices describing the battle from both Union and Confederate sides. This is the only book by Oldroyd not listed in Monaghan's Lincoln bibliography *(Monaghan, Jay, Lincoln Bibliography, 1839-1939, vols.1,2., Springfield Illinois State Historical Library, 1943)*, for its subject is the Civil War, not Lincoln.
3. *Words of Lincoln*, 1895 (*Monaghan, #1172)*, 221 pages, index. Similar to number one above, this book is shorter and combines selected speeches and saying of Abraham Lincoln with nineteen pages of tributes.
4. *Lincoln's Campaign*, 1896, (*Monaghan #1204)*, 241 pages. This book traces Lincoln's 1860 presidential campaign and includes speeches, campaign songs and anecdotes.
5. *The March to Victory*, 1896, (*Monaghan #1205)*, 207 pages. This is a duplicate of number four except for the addition of a brief biography of William McKinley and his 1896 running mate, Garrett Hobert.
6. *The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln,* 1901, *(Monaghan # 1356)*, 305 pages. This is Oldroyd's account of Lincoln's assassination with sketches of the conspirators, including reminiscences and interviews the author conducted during their capture and punishment. The final chapter is a record of Oldroyd's eighty mile trek in 1901 covering Booth's escape route, and includes interviews with people who abetted the assassin, rare photographs, and a map of the assassin's route.
7. *The Poet's Lincoln*, 1915, *(Monaghan #2206), 261 pages.* Published on the fiftieth anniversary of Lincoln's assassination, this anthology of poetry on the subject of Lincoln includes biographical sketches of each contributor, plus more than ninety pictures of Lincoln, and statues, paintings and memorials to him.

Oldroyd's Pamphlets

In addition to his seven books, Oldroyd published seven pamphlets, ranging in length from two to twenty pages. Two pamphlets describe the historic houses in which he lived, Lincoln's Springfield home and the Petersen House. Another pamphlet is a reprint of Lincoln's temperance speech of 1842. An interview with Oldroyd in 1908 resulted in a pamphlet entitled "Forty-eight Years with Lincoln," which relates how Oldroyd acquired certain relics of Lincoln and booth. Oldroyd compiled his largest pamphlet to commemorate the centenary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, 1809-1909. This "program of exercises" includes patriotic songs, poems, speeches, sketches of Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address.

In the final year of his life, Oldroyd penned a spiritual pamphlet entitled "The Mystic Number Seven in the Life of Abraham 7 Lincoln 7." Therein, he attempted to reveal how words with seven letters (Abraham, Lincoln, Indiana, slavery, Herndon, lawyers, circuit, Rutledg[sic], Stephen Douglas, Illinois [sic], Johnson, country), played a special role in Lincoln's destiny.



A Rare Work by Oldroyd Himself

In summary, of the seven books that Oldroyd published, he only wrote three: his Civil War diary at Vicksburg, *Lincoln's Campaign* and *The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln.* The other books were compiled from the writings of others. As the scholar Louis Warren said in *Lincoln Lore,* "Oldroyd was primarily a collector and as might be expected, most of his publications were compilations." (*Lincoln Lore*, N. 868, "Oldroyd's Publications, " November 26, 1946). Oldroyd's pamphlets offer little of significance of Lincoln, and it seems to this author, that the number seven is more applicable to the writings of Oldroyd than to his hero.

Collecting Oldroyd

Today, collecting Oldroyd has become fashionable. In *Collecting Lincoln* by Stuart Schneider, three of Oldroyd's books and one of his pamphlets are pictured, as well as the biography of Oldroyd by William Benham. (*Schneider, Stuart, Collecting Lincoln, Atglen. PA, Schiffler Publishing , 1997.*) Also shown are three post cards of the house in which Lincoln died and a ticket of admission to Oldroyd's museum in this house. *(Ibid, pp. 120-21, 123, 130, 192, 218, 259, 272,* 283-*4.)* Oldroyd printed five different post cards, and their value increases tenfold when they bear his signature. *(Lowe, James, Lincoln Postcard Catalog, Folsom, PA, 1973, p. 84)*

In the annual catalogues of Chuck Hand, an Illinois Lincoln book dealer, Oldroyd's *The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln* is priced as high as $350; *Lincoln's Campaign* sells for $75; *The Poet's Lincoln*, for up to $45; and Oldroyd's *Words of Lincoln* ranges from $23 to $150. Oldroyd's pamphlets sell from $12 to $25. *(Hand, Chuck. Lincoln Catalog #1-9, Paris, IL. 1991-1999).* The higher prices are based upon inscriptions by Oldroyd or limited editions.

The foremost Lincoln book collector, Judge Frank Williams of Rhode Island, owns all of Oldroyd's books with the exception of the scarce *A Soldier's Story of the Siege of Vicksburg. (The author visited the collection of Judge Williams in July 1997. The copy of Oldroyd's Civil War Diary Bassuk consulted is at Monmouth College Library, West Long Branch, NJ).* The Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago estimates its value at upwards of $300.

For the former president of the Lincoln Group of New York, Richard Sloan, it can fairly be said that Oldroyd is "living history." Sloan's interest is in Lincoln's assassination, and he has collected a large amount of Oldroydiana, including various editions of his books, many signed pamphlets, some post cards printed by Oldroyd, photos, newspapers and articles. Sloan has written a dramatic dialogue called "The Witness and the Collector," based on the words and correspondence Osborn Oldroyd had with Louis Weichmann, key witness at the Lincoln assassination trial. It recreates the meeting that took place between them in 1901, using replicas of Oldroyd's collection as props. Sloan has presented this drama before various historical groups, helping to keep Oldroyd "alive." *(Based upon correspondence of the author with Richard Sloan, 1997-1999).*

It can be truly said that while the Lincoln museum at Ford's Theatre honors our Sixteenth President, it also pays tribute to the first Lincoln collector,

IllinoisTimes
The capital city's newsweekly

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Wednesday, November 19,2008

The First Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum

How a deadbeat huckster saved history

BY TARA MCCLELLAN MCANDREW

When the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum opened, it was heralded as the first of its kind. However, there was an unofficial version housed in the Lincoln Home from 1884 to 1893. It was run by Civil War veteran Osborn Oldroyd, a man who was es quirky as the museum he created.

When Oldroyd began collecting items related to Lincoln in 1860 ("books, sermons, eulogies, poems, songs, portraits, badges, autograph letters, pins, medals, envelopes, statuettes," anything related to the man, Oldroyd wrote), he was among the first Americans to do so, and we have him to thank for their preservation. However, Oldroyd was as much historical huckster as hero. He had a P.T. Barnum approach that probably did as much damage as good.

Perhaps he couldn't help it; eccentricity ran in his genes. His parents, William and Mary Oldroyd, loved their home state of Ohio so much they named their son "Osborn Hamiline Ingham Oldroyd" so his initials would spell its name, according to Dr. Wayne Temple's By Square & Compass: Saga of the Lincoln Home, (2002, Mayhaven Publishing).

Oldroyd found his calling in 1880, a few months after his arrival in Springfield, while attending services at Lincoln's Tomb on the 15th anniversary of the president's death. "As I gazed on the...resting-place of him whom I had learned to love in my boyhood's years, I fell to wondering whether it might not be possible for me to contribute my mite [sic] toward adding luster to the fame of this great product of American institutions," wrote Oldroyd in his book, The Lincoln Memorial: Album-Immortelles, published two years later (by G. W. Carleton and Publishers). He had a plan: he would build a Memorial Hall in Springfield to display his growing collection of Lincoln memorabilia.

Oldroyd assembled his 500-plus-page book to raise money for the Memorial Hall. The book contained snippets of Lincoln speeches and writings, as well as reminiscences of the president which Oldroyd sought from Lincoln's friends and contemporaries. Book sales were fairly good, but Memorial Hall was never constructed.

In the meantime, he ran a succession of failed businesses and moved his family closer and closer to the Lincoln Home at Eighth and Jackson streets. First they lived at 1101 South Seventh, then 500 South Eighth Street (immediately south of the home) and then, in 1883, when the Lincoln Home became available to rent, Oldroyd moved his family in before the last occupants had completely moved out.

At that time, Lincoln's oldest and only surviving son, Robert, owned the home. He charged Oldroyd $25 monthly rent.

Oldroyd arranged his nearly 2,000 Lincoln items on the home's first floor (his family lived on the second) and on April 14, 1884 — the 19th anniversary of Lincoln's assassination, he opened his museum. Admission was 25 cents, according to a 1992 Lincoln Home report. (Later in his life Oldroyd denied ever charging admission, says Temple's book.)

"The reception at the Lincoln residence last night was a brilliant affair," said the next day's Illinois State Journal. "Mr. Oldroyd has been at work for years on this matchless collection, and it is believed its equal does not exist in the United States.... At last his labors have been crowned with success, and the hundreds of people who thronged the rooms last night are loud in their praise."

Not everybody liked Oldroyd's "traps," as Robert Lincoln later called them. Years later (in the July 1888 issue of the nationally popular Harper's magazine), Charles Dudley Warner wrote about his impressions of Springfield and the Lincoln Home. He bemoaned not finding Lincoln's "sense of personality" here. "Nor is the Lincoln residence much more satisfactory in this respect.... Although the parlor is made a show-room and full of memorials, there is no atmosphere of the man about it."

Meanwhile, Oldroyd, ever the promoter (Temple says Oldroyd called himself "Captain" after the Civil War despite not achieving that rank), found creative ways to publicize his museum while filling the public's desire for Lincoln artifacts. He sold photographs of his collection for 25 cents and a box of "Lincoln relics" for 75 cents. The box contained bits of the Lincoln Home and grounds: pieces of brick, shingle, ceiling plaster, elm tree, apple tree, lath, joist, and floor, according to James Hickey's article, "Own the House Till it Ruins Me" (The Collected Writings of James T. Hickey, Illinois State Historical Society, 1990). Oldroyd claims he saved the items during house repairs.

Two years after Oldroyd moved into the home of the man he adored, he began stiffing the man's son. Oldroyd stopping paying rent in 1885, according to Temple's book. Robert Lincoln, reluctant to attract public attention to the matter, didn't pursue legal proceedings against the "deadbeat," as he called Oldroyd in a letter, even two years and no rental payments later.

Not only did Robert feel he was being used, but "he was not happy with the way Oldroyd had turned the home into a sort of carnival sideshow, selling pieces of it and putting other things into it that had not been the Lincolns'," says James Cornelius, Lincoln curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

While Oldroyd wasn't paying rent, he was working on a way to live in the home rent-free. Hickey's article explains how Oldroyd "quietly" lobbied Illinois legislators to acquire the Lincoln Home for the state and let Oldroyd and his museum remain in it. The legislature's first two attempts to ask Robert Lincoln for the house were unsuccessful. Robert said he wasn't ready to part with the home yet.

The legislature succeeded on its third try. In 1887 Robert deeded the Lincoln Home to the state on the conditions it "be kept in good repair and free of access to the public," according to Hickey's article. (Some historians speculate this was Robert's indictment of Oldroyd's management of the house.)

Oldroyd got his wish. He was appointed custodian of the house for a yearly salary of $1,000, he didn't have to pay rent and he was allowed to keep his museum, even though he couldn't charge admission anymore. Perhaps to make up for that loss of income, Oldroyd had several in-laws move in and charged them rent, according to Temple.

There is no evidence Oldroyd ever paid Robert the two years of rent he owed. For the next five years "Captain" Oldroyd kept the Lincoln Home and built his Lincoln collection. But in 1893, the political powers shifted and Oldroyd was unceremoniously ousted. A Democrat became governor and put one of his own into Oldroyd's former position.

The Illinois State Journal criticized the move. "The removal of Captain O. H. Oldroyd... means that the Lincoln Home will be stripped of the features of most interest to visitors, which are the personal property of Captain Oldroyd, and...the new custodian...will have nothing to show to those who visit the Home," said its April 13, 1893 issue.

Oldroyd found a new home for his "museum." He took his collection to Washington, D.C., and set it up in the Petersen House, the home where Lincoln died across from Ford's Theater. Like before, he set up his museum on the first floor and lived on the second. This time he actually paid rent, according to Temple's book.

The problem is, the new museum featured pilfered artifacts. "He pretty much cleaned house" when he moved out of the Lincoln Home, says Susan Haake, curator of the home. "He stole property."

She says he took at least 25 items from the home that were the state's, including "important pieces" such as the heavy cast-iron stove Mary loved and the cradle the three youngest Lincoln boys had used.

"By the time Oldroyd had been removed as custodian, the home had suffered irreversibly significant damage, with irreplaceable historic fabric removed and discarded without either a trace or documentary record of its appearance" said the 1992 Lincoln Home report. "After Oldroyd, the Lincoln Home would truly never be the same home known by the family for their 17 years in Springfield," it summarized.

Three years after Oldroyd set up his museum in the Petersen House, the federal government bought the home and Oldroyd stayed there, with his collection, for free. Thirty years later Congress bought his Lincoln collection, which was later put on display at Ford's Theater.

Justice was done decades later. Between the 1950s and late 1980s, the Lincoln Home got 25 items back from Ford's Theater that Oldroyd had "taken," says Haake. "For the most part, (the items) are in wonderful shape.

"Oldroyd felt he was doing a public service," she says. "In reality he was, because this stuff wasn't really valued (during his time). The fact that Oldroyd was saving all these Lincoln items probably did save a lot of them from being used until they were worn out."

"I think Oldroyd reflected the larger attitudes of the time period," says Tim Townsend, historian at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. "This was before the concept of historic preservation or the idea of the proper way to restore and interpret an historic house museum. The idea of curiosities or relics on display was everywhere."

"In truth, O. H. Oldroyd had made a most significant contribution to the history of Lincoln," writes Temple. "Even though (his book on Lincoln) contains flowery platitudes, a few of Lincoln's close friends wrote wonderful reminiscences for (it). No serious Lincoln scholar today can afford to ignore this work."

The benefits of Oldroyd's work are still showing up. In 2006 the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum purchased a "unique" 1858 ambrotype (a type of photograph) of Lincoln, which appears to have been owned by Oldroyd. "It is the first example of a 'Photoshopping' job done on Lincoln that we know of," says Cornelius. The ambrotype was of an 1854 daguerreotype (another type of photo) of Lincoln that had been altered. The daguerreotype was lost in the great Chicago Fire, which makes the ambrotype even more important.

"Thanks to Oldroyd for preserving it," says Cornelius.

Tara McClellan McAndrew writes

the history column for Illinois Times